THE TIMES
Higher Education
SUPPLEMENT

UGC stands studies report by its Russian

The University Grants Committee this week defended its report on Russian and Russian studies in British Universities and placed the initiative for further action firmly in the hands of the universities.

Speaking at the annual conference of the British Universities Association of Slavists in Durham Professor R. J. C. Atkinson, chairman of the UGC sub-committee on Russian and Russian Studies, said that the ball was now in BUAS's court.

"If you yourselves can formulate a programme of rationalization which will ensure the preservation of exceptional scholarship I hope very much that you will do so and I can assure you that it will be considered sympathetically by the UGC providing it is not too long delayed".

Invoking the spectre of governmental interference Professor Atkinson warned that "if the recommendations of the report were rejected and no alternative means found of reducing the current provisions, the risk of intervention from outside the university system be revived".

He said: "It is surely better that a problem of this kind should be resolved by agreement from within the university system rather than that it should be ignored by those most directly affected and that its solutions should be left to be imposed by our legislators who are far less well informed than we are about our own university affairs.

"Perhaps not all of you understand how little account is taken by our legislators of the academic freedom and autonomy we all regard as essential to the proper functioning of our universities."

Lecturers' new pay claim

College and polytechnic lecturers have lodged a new pay claim in line with the movement of prices in the year up to April, 1980. Inflation is now running at nearly 20 per cent a year.

The claim was officially lodged by the teachers' side of the Burnham further education committee on Monday. The pay cycle has been thrown out of sequence by Clegg investigation into pay comparability, which formed part of the 1979 settlement.

The two sides are due to meet later in April, by which time they hope Professor Hugh Clegg's report will have been published.

A spokesman for the Clegg Commission confirmed that the report would be sent to the Prime Minister on schedule, either today or Monday. The publication date may be announced next week.

But it is widely the report will be published after Easter — and remained open whether it will be in time for the Budget. Details of the mechanics of setting it printed.

Dates being investigated for a meeting of the Burnham FE committee are April 18—21, if Clegg has not been published by then, much later in the month. The employers have indicated their unwillingness to talk about the 1980 claim at least until they know what the base figures for 1979 will be after Clegg has reported.

The claim lodged by the lecturers falls into two parts. The first seeks the restoration of the Houghton relativities by adjusting salaries in line with the movement in the average earnings index between May 1974 and April 1979.

They then want the adjusted salaries to be increased by the same percentage increase as in the retail prices index from April 1979 to April 1980.

There are also demands for wide-ranging of structural improvements.

The increase in the RPI up to April will not be known until mid-May, according to the Department of Employment.

NELP wins a reprieve from department closure plan

by David Jobbins.

Threatened departments and courses at North East London Polytechnic have been granted a reprieve—but it may prove only to be temporary.

Polytechnic governors have decided neither to accept nor reject the controversial plan for dismantling the humanities and environmental studies facilities, and discontinuing a wide range of courses.

Instead they have set up a working party which will examine the plan—and the alternative scheme drawn up by the polytechnic's academic board which is designed to avoid compulsory redundancies and retain the threatened courses.

The working party will have 10 members and is chaired by the chairman of governors, Councillor Arthur Edwards. Its three governor members will be selected by Councillor Edwards; the three academic board members are certain to include polytechnic director Dr George Brosan; and the remaining three will be selected from the joint education committee representing the three London boroughs.

It will report to the existing working party set up by the governors' policy and resources committee. Its report will also be sent to the academic board and other interested parties "for consideration". Finally it will be considered by the governors.

"This new development plan base line will also require the concurrence of the constituent authorities", a polytechnic spokesman said.

Unions at the polytechnic are regarding the governors' decision as a limited victory.

Mr Tim Butler, chairman of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education coordinating committee at NELP, said: "However unacceptable the outcome of the meeting, it represents a victory for the unions in that the director and the chairman of governors were forced to withdraw their proposals in favour of this unsatisfactory compromise.

"But the fight for education and staff jobs continues."

Mr Bill Smith, chairman of the campus unions liaison committee, said the debate on the future of the polytechnic would not just be left to the committee of ten.

"We shall spread our ideas much wider than the two working party reports which have been specifically referred to it."

No timetable has been established for the working party to produce the new base line—and a first aim for the unions will be to establish when consultations are to be held.

One fear shared by NATFHE and other campus unions is that the new committee will mirror very closely the group which drew up the original proposals.

Governors have agreed to tell the joint education committee, which meets today to approve the polytechnic's 1980-81 estimates, that the cuts as currently envisaged — now £3.7m — cannot be made without a substantial reduction in staff and teaching work.

They are asking the JEC not to make the cuts — but if they are to define precisely the conditions under which staff are made redundant.

Today the JEC is expected to agree to phase the cut over two years—with £1.5m savings in 1980-81 and the balance the following financial year.

Governors say that the cuts for 1980-81 should be made by trimming back on supplies and services, and by disestablishing 40 vacant posts and 52.5 non-teaching ones. Because of the high turnover rate they hope that job reductions for non-teaching staff can be achieved by natural wastage, and have agreed to authorize a "no redundancy" understanding at management level with the white collar administrative unions.



A unique exhibition of more than 100 coloured drawings of Romano-British mosaics is to open next month at Leicester Polytechnic. They represent 20 years' work by David Neal, an archaeologist who has recorded and interpreted most of the mosaics discovered in Britain.

Serious shortfall of qualified teachers by 1984

A shortfall of between 20 and 50 per cent in the number of qualified teachers by 1984 can be expected because of the stiffer entrance requirements to training courses for 1980.

Figures published this week in the annual report of the Central Register and Clearing House show that for 1979 only 50 per cent of students had two A levels and English and maths O levels which are now the normal requirements for non-graduate applicants to a teaching qualification.

The combined analysis covers institutes or colleges of higher education, colleges of education and polytechnics for courses leading to three or four-year BEd degrees, two-year diploma of higher education and the three-year certificate of education which is being phased out.

The analysis shows that only 17 per cent had two A levels and English O level and only 0.16 per cent had two A levels and maths, with 0.18 per cent with neither subject and the remainder with no A levels at all.

Huddersfield and council on collision course

by Paul Flather

Kirklees Council is now waiting for the completion of a second audit on the affairs of Huddersfield Polytechnic before deciding what action to take, following allegations of maladministration at the college over the past 12 months.

But a row is almost certain to follow, after senior polytechnic staff revealed that they would not be sending the answers to a questionnaire from the authority by this week's deadline of March 26.

The questionnaire asked for details on staffing levels, administration tiers in different polytechnic departments, student-staff ratios, and financing arrangements.

Mr Peter Fielden, manager of academic support services at the polytechnic, said: "There is no possibility of doing it in time because of the work programme on which the governors have embarked as a result of the interim audit report.

"It is not a question of refusing to comply. But there is an order of priorities in these things." The interim audit was completed last November and covered the previous year's administration.

It was requested after Kirklees councillors expressed unease at the degree of accountability of polytechnic finances. The second audit would bring the accounts up to date, but it will also fill in details of finances not fully covered in the first audit", according to a council spokesman.

Meanwhile the Secretary of State for Education, Mr. Mark Carlisle, has written to Kirklees urging that the difficulty be sorted out at local level. He had been asked by the authority for permission to intervene directly in the polytechnic's affairs. This has always been strongly resisted by the polytechnic board of governors.

"At the moment we are trying to comply with the wishes of the State. We are now holding joint meetings with representatives of the polytechnic", said a council spokesman.

The council's representatives on the committee, described as very "high-powered", include the Conservative leader of the council, Mr Tom Cliffe, the deputy-leader, the leader and deputy-leader of the Labour group, and the leader of the Liberal group.

The rector Mr Ken Durrands is in hospital and has not attended the joint meetings for that reason. The polytechnic is the administration that the meetings have gone ahead without prejudice to the governors' decision that the rector should not be excluded from the talks as councillors have demanded.

Councillor Tom Cliffe refused to make any comment on the polytechnic's failure to send back the answers to the questionnaire. "Until I learn of this from official channels I cannot say anything. We are trying to resolve the situation."

A further joint meeting of polytechnic governors and councillors is planned for next month, and the council's financial subcommittee will meet shortly to discuss the affair.

Meanwhile West Yorkshire police are continuing their inquiries into the affairs of Leeds Polytechnic.

Overseas fees policy

from front page

ceased to be viable because of the loss of overseas students would have to close.

Mr Carlisle said the policy was intended to cut the £127m subsidy which had arisen from uneconomic fee levels, not to reduce numbers coming to Britain. He did not accept the view of some universities that numbers would fall sharply, although he accepted that there would be some reductions.

"If the assumption on which we based this decision turned out to be totally false, then we would have to look again at it", he said.

The distribution by country of overseas students was a matter for the Foreign Office, he said, and not the DES, so the possibility of a reduction of the numbers coming from the poorest countries was not something he was considering. An announcement on special measures for ELDC students was expected before the Easter recess.

Mr Carlisle said the new policy was expected to save £50m, which assumes a future population of 66,000 overseas students—the number anticipated for 1981-82.

Transfer service plan rebuffed

by Ngaio Crequer

Proposals to set up a national information service on credit transfer have been rebuffed by the universities. They have decided against endorsing plans for a pilot scheme.

Their stand will be a serious blow for the advocates of the scheme, intended to ease transfer from different educational institutions. It is also out of step with the large number of organizations which, to varying extents, have welcomed the proposals.

At the end of last year a report carried out for the Department of Education and Science reported that there was a clear need for a national service and that it would be feasible to set up. The Government said it would be prepared to consider funding a pilot scheme providing there was sufficient support, and that charging for the service would be acceptable.

Since then the study group headed by Mr Peter Toyne, of Exeter University, has been consulting interested parties on these points, as well as on the way the service would work and whether it should be attached to any existing national body.

All the universities have been canvassed individually but the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals have told the DES that there is only limited support for the scheme and that they cannot endorse implementation in the proposed form.

They have put forward two reasons for their objection. The first is that the universities already have well established arrangements for obtaining information about comparative qualifications. The second, which is probably the stronger, is that they feel the scheme is excessively elaborate and inefficient and costly to outweigh its benefits.

NUS revision plans come under attack

A long-awaited policy document which sets out to re-define the role of the National Union of Students has been described as a plan to turn the clock back 10 years by the union's development.

The document, *The Student Experience Things to Come: the NUS of the 80s*, has been prepared by the union's executive for submission and resolution at its next national conference in April.

It urges the union to "reprioritize" its aims and objectives and to concentrate on doing fewer activities better.

Union resources should be spent on representing and campaigning for student interests at local and national level, for example by grants, and on servicing clubs and informing student unions.

The National Organization of Labour Students (NOLS), which has 6,000 members, says the plan would turn the union into the sort of political pressure group that existed in the early 1960s.

"We have very strong reservations about the plan which challenges the outward going spirit developed in the 1970s," a spokesman said. Mr. Mike Gapes, NOLS national secretary of NOLS and Labour Party student organizer.

NEXT WEEK

Professor K. Kenneth Hall: The Habitable Globe

Politics Journals: Iain Wright on Charles; Osborne's W. H. Auden; the wife-battering; Peter Scott continues his series on China

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New status demanded for polys

by Paul Flather

Polytechnic directors and chairmen of polytechnic boards of governors have joined forces for the first time behind demands for a "nationally coordinated" system of funding and for corporate status for the polytechnics.

Corporate status would turn polytechnics into independent legal entities, allow them to register as charities and handle their own accounts. They would still be bound by the regulations that accompany grants.

The move, described as a watershed in bringing both sides of the debate together, came at a consultative meeting organized by the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics last week.

Directors and chairmen of governors now agree that the present system of funding through individual local education authorities promotes petty interference and arbitrary discrepancies.

With only two exceptions the directors came out heavily in support of seeking corporate status for polytechnics to allow them to be more responsive to industrial and vocational needs.

The directors now regard the achievement of corporate status as the most promising route to independence. The meeting scrupulously avoided reviving calls for polytechnics to be granted Royal Charters.

Mr David Bethel, outgoing chairman of the CDP said: "The important point of the meeting was the almost universal support from chairmen of governors for the present regulations were creating misunderstanding and inefficiency.

"All polytechnic directors are now in favour of some form of corporate status. This point about charters is that it is the only way of ensuring principles. But this was a creative meeting, not a belly aching session."

Dr Robert Clendinning, chairman of the governors of Bristol Polytechnic said he favoured national funding based on need and the provision of courses.

"The present system of capping the pool has all the disadvantages of central funding with none of the advantages of a national body. We ought perhaps to have a new body like the University Grants Committee for polytechnics."

Chairmon of governors attending the meeting are now seeking support for their views on funding and corporate status from their individual boards.

Sir Norman Lindop, director of Hatfield Polytechnic, is against the idea of charters, but he supported a campaign to seek corporate status. "Local authorities must have some say in how polytechnics are run. The charter probably goes too far against this", he said.

The meeting also resolved that local ties between LEAs and the polytechnics should be strengthened by a "more constructive partnership". This would follow the setting up of a national funding body which removed competition at the local level for scarce resources.

Dr Arthur Suddaby, provost of the City of London Polytechnic, said the political significance of the meeting was considerable. "For the first time directors have ironed out most of their own differences and won support from local authority representatives.

"We have avoided the use of the word charter to avoid accusations that we simply want to become like universities. This is nonsense. We want an efficient system of operation."

Brosan proposes regional consortia

by John O'Leary

A controversial plan for complete reorganization of the maintained sector of higher education has been submitted to the Select Committee on Education by Dr George Brosan, director of North East London Polytechnic.

Dr Brosan's proposal is to group together all post-secondary colleges and polytechnics in a given area to form a single institution. This regional consortium would then be responsible for all further and higher education, other than the purely recreational, outside the universities.

Initially universities would be excluded, although they could be represented on the governing council of a consortium if there was a reciprocal arrangement. The day-to-day running of the consortium would be in the hands of an executive of eight to 10 people, meeting monthly.

In 14 pages of evidence, complete with cartoon, Dr Brosan outlines the form the new institutions would take and shows how his system would work in Merseyside, Humberside and East Sussex, though not in London. If his idea was accepted, a working party would have to draw up a detailed plan.

He estimates that the working party could report within 18 months and, after six months of consultations, a two-year changeover would be feasible. However, he stresses that an unquantifiable length of time would have to be added for political decisions and legislation.

Dr Brosan, in his paper, concedes that the idea of consortia would provoke political, personal and educational objections but believes they are outweighed by the advantages. There would be dramatic benefits for staff in career opportunities and efficiency, for courses through greater interaction and for students through the "unquestionable integrity of a larger institution" and a wider range of provision.

At the same time, he says, there would be no need for excessive bureaucracy since the consortia would be designed to replace several tiers of existing administration. "Money—buckets of it—would be saved by better staff utilization, by sharing of resources and, above all, by putting the incentives to help cooperation, not individual institutional growth," Dr Brosan says.

The governing council of each consortium would have a majority of local authority representation under Dr Brosan's plan, although this would often consist of more than one authority. Industry, commerce, trades unions, teaching staff, professional bodies, institutional finns and assessors from the Departments of Education and Science, Industry and Employment would also be represented

Government names Merrison's men

The Government this week announced the appointment of a seven-man working party to investigate the dual funding system of support for university research.

Sir Alec Merrison, vice-chancellor of Bristol University and chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, will chair the new body, which is to be a joint working party of the ABRC and the University Grants Committee.

Its brief is to "review the current arrangements for the support of university research in the natural and social sciences; to consider how far these arrangements make for the most effective use of existing and likely future resources; and to report to the Advisory Board for the Research Councils and the University Grants Committee".

The remainder of the working party comprises Dr Edward Parkes (chairman of the UGC), Sir Geoffrey Allen (chairman of the Science Research Council), Professor Peter Bromley (professor of law at Manchester University), Professor John Gunn (Cavell professor of natural philosophy at Glasgow University), Dr Martin Haldgate (director-general of science for the Departments of Transport and the Environment) and Sir Rex Richards (vice-chancellor of Oxford University).

It is hoped that the first meeting will take place before the end of the month.



Lalage...

Public sector faces 11 per cent spending fall

Spending on higher education in polytechnics and maintained colleges will suffer disproportionately in the next five years, the Government has told local education authorities in the wake of its Expenditure White Paper published last week.

The White Paper predicted a "small reduction" in spending on higher education, especially in the non-university sector. But in a meeting last week DES officials told local government leaders that the public sector of higher education would face an 11 per cent spending fall between 1979-80 and 1983-84.

Part of this decrease will help subsidize an increase in expenditure on non-advanced further education of more than 4.4 per cent over the same period. But it is also clear that the cuts forecast in the public sector will increase the universities' chance of higher education expenditure.

The Government apparently hopes that increased efficiency and lower costs will enable student numbers to withstand the spending cuts. Provisional estimates of home numbers in public sector higher education, including part-timers, show only a small decline from 317,000 in 1979-80 to 314,300 in 1983-84.

To hold student numbers constant next year, the DES envisages a small drop in first-year admissions from last autumn's 108,000, to 105,000 at worst.

White Paper details, page 2.
Leader, page 27

Regius chairs may stay empty

Oxford University's Regius chairs in history and theology may remain unfilled because of the university's worsening financial predicament.

There is increasing speculation that the Prime Minister's office has decided to "freeze" the appointments.

The university has a policy to leave all vacant teaching posts empty until 1982. Exceptions are made in circumstances of specialist teaching need or extreme shortage. The PM's office is therefore reluctant to make the appointments, including a successor to the £14,000 a year chair in modern history, without being certain that the university will pay the salaries.

Mr Colin Peterson, the appointments secretary who advises the Prime Minister, has begun sounding out opinion on successors for the chair of moral and pastoral theology based at Christ Church, and the chair of modern history.

A spokesman for his office said he could not comment on suggestions that the posts had been frozen and would not say when an official announcement is to be made.

A university spokesman said Oxford had been compelled to review filling all vacant posts "with

The Prime Minister's Office is looking for a successor to Lord Dacre, formerly Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper.

Three men considered front runners within the university are Keith Thomas, 47, fellow of St John's, Michael Howard, 58, fellow of All Souls, and Raymond Carr, 60, Warden of St Anthony's.

The chair of moral and pastoral theology at Christ Church was vacated last January by Dr Peter Baelz when he became dean of Durham University.

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The Expenditure White Paper—how it affects higher education

Unrest on campuses, says NUS

by Paul Flather

The National Union of Students is predicting "a hot summer" of unrest and rent strikes on those campuses where residence fees have been raised well in excess of next year's 14.7 per cent increase in student grants.

Mr Trevor Phillips, NUS president, said: "If the Government wants to play dirty with us, we can only play rough with them."

The NUS had expected the grant to at least match the government's own estimate of a 19.7 per cent rise in inflation, and also go some way to make up the grant shortfall on last year's rate of inflation. It had submitted a claim for 36 per cent.

The maximum rates for undergraduates living away from home in London will rise from £1,485. to £1,695; for those living away from home outside London from £1,245 to £1,420, and for those living at home from £985 to £1,125. Supplementary grants will also be increased and the minimum maintenance grant received by all students will rise from £335 to £385.

About 10,000 parents will also be relieved of having to make any contributions towards grants because the starting point for the residual income will be raised from £4,700 to £5,800.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Education Secretary, said the five per cent short fall between the new grant level and the rate of inflation marked a contribution to the Government's policy of restraining public expenditure.

The NUS is now preparing to mount a campaign against high residence fees, which they predict will rise by at least 23 per cent in the next year.

A survey published by the NUS earlier this year revealed that some colleges—including the North Worcester College and Stockwell College, Kent—were charging more than 25 per cent above the grant element for weekly board and lodging.

Mr Geoffrey Caston, secretary general of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, said this week: "We are dismayed that the increase in student grants is not sufficient to cover increases in the economic cost to universities of providing board and lodging for their students.

Nine per cent cut over five years

He said it was expected that full time new home undergraduates in 1980-81 will be in the region of 75,000, about the same level as this year. This would lead to a total home undergraduate population of about 235,000.

Home postgraduate numbers are assumed to remain at their present total of about 30,000. Home students are expected to be divided equally between arts and science. No provision is made for overseas students, who will be expected to be charged full cost fees.

Mr Geoffrey Caston, secretary general of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, said: "The announcement did little to relieve the uncertainty of the universities' financial future owing to the Government's policy on overseas students, and the strong possibility that allowance for pay and price rises may prove to be unrealistic.

"It is disturbing that the Government is contemplating a reduction in higher education intake at a time when there is still increasing pressure from highly qualified young people. Nevertheless, we are encouraged that we have not been singled out for harsh treatment."

The Association of University Teachers, in a statement, shared the concern about the reduction in numbers and the fact that uncertainty has not been dispelled by the grant allocation. It said that the financial situation of the universities will not be known until October next two years.

Student awards will go up by nearly 15 per cent next year to £670m. Then up to £650m for the following two years and £660m in 1983-84.

The White Paper says that with the increased provision for home students in non-advanced further education, enrolments are projected to increase by about 10 per cent by 1983-4, in recognition of the need to improve the supply of trained manpower for industry and commerce.

A building programme will allow for the provision of extra places as well as some essential adaptations.

There will also be an extension of schemes for the training of teachers in shortage subjects, like mathematics and science. In-service training will be maintained at its present level. Youth service spending is to be held at the planned 1980-81 level of about £60m up to 1983-84.

Spending on primary and secondary schools is expected to fall by 6 per cent between 1978-79 and 1983-84 although the fall in numbers will be about 13 per cent.

The Government hopes to save about £280m on meals, milk and transport in the same period. But this figure was reached before the Lords' revolt on transport and higher education authorities will have to wait for the next public expenditure survey to know what the implications of this will be.

Teacher numbers are expected to fall from 471,000 in 1978-79 to 412,000 in 1983-84. By the same year, current expenditure on the under-fives is expected to fall by about 5 per cent.

Leader, page 27

£987m recurrent grant fails to ease budget fears

Although the universities will generally welcome the extra grant made available for this year, the announcement about next year's recurrent allocation will not ease the uncertainty about their future ability to cope.

The Government has announced that £62.4m will be provided for the last term this year, and another £1.7m for equipment and furniture, both to take account of pay and price increases.

For 1980-81 the recurrent grant will be £987m, which is based on a 14 per cent rise in pay and prices. The equipment and furniture grant for next year will be £71.69m.

The recurrent grant includes an earmarked sum of £5m to be made available to the universities to help ensure that uncertainty about prospective income from overseas students does not adversely affect selected postgraduate work.

Also included in the £987m is £1.5m for the merger between Brunel University and Shoreditch College, and £5m in respect of expenditure which the UGC is to take over from the Computer Board next year.

The recurrent grant, which is cash limited, will provide grant for home students at approximately the same level, in real terms, as in the academic year, 1979-80. Mr Mark Carlisle, Education Secretary, told the Commons.

He said it was expected that full



Geoffrey Caston: universities financial future still uncertain

when the numbers of overseas students admissions will be available.

The universities will know their share of the £62m extra grant for this year in the next couple of weeks but they will not know the details of next year's grant until May or, more probably, June.

But they have cause to be concerned on a number of fronts. There are a number of pay claims still with the Clegg Commission and there can only be speculation about what figures will finally emerge.

Everything will depend on what happens to overseas student numbers.

Science fares better with small increase

by Peter David

The science budget received favourable treatment in the White Paper, which plans for a slight increase from 1980-81 onwards, so that by 1983-84 it will be about 9 per cent above the level achieved in 1978-79.

The paper says: "The Government attach great importance to the support of basic science, in which the United Kingdom excels, as an investment in the country's industrial and intellectual future".

Interim planning figures in spending by the five research councils at £303m in 1981-82, £306m in 1982-83 and £306m in 1983-84. The comparable total in the current year is £302m. The totals also include allocations to the British Museum and the Royal Society. All figures are at November 1979 survey prices.

For 1980-81, the supply estimates and cash limits, published with the White Paper, contain projections of the actual spending of the research councils after "realistic" allowance has been made for the forthcoming Clegg award.

They are: Agricultural Research Council £34.99m; Medical Research Council £71.9m; Natural Environment Research Council £45.04m; Science Research Council £20.08m and Social Science Research Council £19.75m.

'Fewer teachers' pointer for Scots

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

Scottish universities are covered directly by the Government's White Paper, but plans for the rest of Scottish higher education have not yet been spelled out.

However, the education libraries and arts budget is being slashed from the 1979-80 figure of £945m to £860m in 1983-84.

This will be largely achieved by a fall in the present level of teachers. Scottish Secretary Mr George Younger has said local authorities employ 3,000 more teachers than set out in SED guidelines and wants the total reduced by a further 4,600 within the next five years, although he says most of this will be achieved by natural wastage.

Even with the cuts, said Mr Younger, the falling school rolls would mean an improved pupil-teacher ratio.

However, these figures have dire implications for the colleges of education. Mr Younger said it was doubtful that Scotland could continue to support 10 teacher training colleges.

Colleges and Universities are likely disproportionately affected. Institutes of Scotland, Scotland's largest teaching union.

Mr John Pollock, EIS general secretary, added: "Neither Government nor teachers understood the figures on which they were based, so it was the wrong figures. He added: "George Younger may be Secretary of State for Scotland, but the pupil-teacher ratios he quoted are not the Scottish figures.

"It seems to me that statistical evidence is being juggled with to suit political purposes. Propaganda of a press release which in the end becomes rather than enhance the credibility of ministerial statements."

The EIS maintains that present staffing levels are the minimum levels and that local authorities should improve on them. Compared with England, it says, there is a disproportionately severe reduction in the staffing of Scottish schools.

Mr Pollock also asked whether Mr Alex Fletcher, Scottish Education Minister, knew of Mr Younger's figures. He understood that Mr Fletcher would be announcing his proposals on the Rayner and Dunning reports shortly and these included predictions of additional teaching resources.

"How wrong can any government get in aiming to announce a reduction of some 7,600 teachers one day and two or three days later to announce improvement to probably 200-300 teachers?" asked Mr Pollock.

The EIS has firmly stated it will not accept a reduction of 7,600 jobs over the next five years and will oppose any attempt to introduce compulsory redundancies by industrial action if necessary.

£15m axe on adult education

by Charlotte Barry

The Government's decision to cut public spending on adult education by one third in the next year represents "shortsighted lunacy", the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education said this week.

The cut, which will amount to about £15m below the 1978-79 level from this September, is expected to be achieved by higher fees. The Government hopes that the present level of about two million students on evening and other courses will not be reduced.

NATFHE's assistant secretary for further education, Mr Mick Farley, said: "It's very clear from the White Paper that the adult education service over the next few years will be decimated."

This latest blow to adult education comes while it is still reeling from the effects of large and disproportionate cuts in its provision last autumn.

NATFHE's concern about the latest reduction in spending on adult education was mirrored at a public meeting in London organised by the national Save Adult Education Campaign, NATFHE and the Association for Adult and Continuing Education.

Describing the Government as a "philistine in its outlook", Mr Christopher Price MP, chairman of the Commons select committee on education told the meeting that it was cutting down on spending on adult education Britain is lagging behind the rest of Europe.

Mr Billy Hughes, president of the Workers' Educational Association, referred to the Government's cuts as "sadistic" in that it picks on the most vulnerable sector of education.

Foreign aid hit badly

by John O'Leary

Swingeing cuts in the Overseas Aid programme, combined with the predicted reduction in the British Council's budget, will have a dramatic effect on Britain's educational presence abroad over the next four years.

With further cuts still to come for the British Council, cuts in the aid programme will be distributed in a way already close to that education will suffer a severe setback as a result of the White Paper calculations.

The total aid programme is to be cut by 14 per cent over the next three years, falling from £794m in 1979-80 to £779m this year and £680m in 1982-83. The Government had already cut last year's figure by £50m shortly after taking office.

As expected, the British Council's core budget is to be reduced by £3.9m over the next three years, the biggest fall of £1.6m coming in 1981-82. The council's £46.6m budget had already been reduced by £5m for the coming year.

This year's cut will lead to 358 redundancies among the council's staff in Britain and 129 in its offices abroad.

Ministers seeking 'backdoor' change of policy

by David Jobbins

Ministers were trying to slip in a fundamental change in higher education policy by the back door, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education warned.

The 3 per cent cut was "very significant" when the numbers seeking admission to further and higher education were likely to increase over the next few years, said the union's education secretary Janey Rees.

The Education Secretary Mr Mark Carlisle had said there would be a small drop in admissions to higher education.

She said: "Given the increasing size of the age group this clearly represents a retreat from the Robbins principle—a fundamental shift in higher education policy which is being slipped in by the back door."

Mrs Rees attacked the cut-back in adult education as "scandalous". Whatever the White Paper said, it meant the end of adult education in many parts of the country. The most socially desirable courses—adult literacy and numeracy, and English classes for immigrants—would be under most pressure.

She was deeply sceptical about the promises for an expansion of non-advanced further education. NATFHE's assistant secretary for further education, Mick Farley, added: "It is quite hypocritical to pretend that enrolment can increase when local authorities are faced with massive cuts and when the non-statutory sector overall is set to bear a disproportionate share of them."

Union leaders point out that the Government has not made money specifically available for the promised expansion outside the rate support grant.

Redundancy plan 'unnecessary'

by Ngaio Crequer

A national redundancy scheme for university staff was neither necessary, timely or desirable, Mr Geoffrey Caston, secretary-general of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, said last week.

Answering questions at the Conference of University Administrators at Reading University, Mr Caston said several universities had raised this point and some were strongly in favour.

Many universities genuinely felt that the degree of retrenchment did not justify compulsory redundancy of staff, he said. A national scheme would create all kinds of uncertainties, conditions or employment were not standard and a scheme might be as expensive as anything else they would have to cope with.

He said that this could be outweighed if the Government told the universities they had to slim down and made money available to pay off staff. "But there is no conceivable question of the Government doing anything of the kind."

In an address to the conference on the role of the CVCP Mr Caston referred to the committee's vigorous campaigning against the overseas students fees policy. "The CVCP was criticized . . . for what was said to be the shrillness of our tone. We were also criticized by others for our docility and the fact that nobody heard us at all. My own feeling is that in these days I would rather we were erring on the side of noisiness. People need to hear the sound of their own voice in the general din."

He said that the committee's relationship with the University Grants Committee was an important one and it would be inconceivable if the latter formed a view on university matters without consulting the CVCP.

But it was also increasingly important that the CVCP should have direct contact with ministers and civil servants, especially as there were signs that government was less receptive now to confidential advice.

"Ministers may be more inclined on occasion to listen to advice which is given publicly and may therefore carry some political clout. So universities must have a representative public voice which can, as it were, speak out loud to ministers in counterpoint to the whispers in their other ear from the UGC, which is neither representative nor public."

He said a current difficulty was that the CVCP recognized the need to face more boldly the prospect of inter-institutional arrangements designed to promote rationalisation, realising this might lead to merger or closure.

"But how do we see the actual mechanics of this? Do we leave it to the UGC as in the case of the recent Russian report? Do we do it ourselves, as London is proposing to do? Should there be a role for the CVCP as an embodiment of the self-governing university system, somewhere between the UGC and individual universities?

"A number of people are beginning to say that there should, but I must confess to a good deal of worry at going down a road which would necessarily take us into questions which are very divisive as between universities, and away from those areas in which we have interests in common."

He said the universities had more difficulty than many other social institutions in promoting themselves because there was no mass system of higher education. Cultivation of the "old boy network" was something not altogether to be disparaged but "the old types of cosy Athenaeum consensus between top people" were not as powerful as they used to be. The universities needed to reach out to a wider public.

Promotion was best done by a university in its own locality or region. He said he thought there was a great deal in the argument that the lack of involvement in local processes of government and politics by universities may be becoming a source of weakness rather than strength.

Slavists reject plans for Russian studies

The British Universities Association of Slavists has formally rejected moves by the University Grants Committee designed to rationalize Russian and Russian Studies.

Following last week's defence by the UGC of its controversial report, BUAS has overwhelmingly endorsed an Association of University Teachers' motion rejecting the report. At the same time it urges the committee to sponsor a national conference on the future policy of modern languages.

Professor R. A. Peace, the retiring president of BUAS, views the proposals as a means of redressing the modern languages imbalance and of putting an end to the "unjustifiable domination of French" in secondary and tertiary education.

Professor Peace described the report as a "straightforward Government hatchet job" and expressed concern that the UGC was turning from being a "buffer" between the universities and Government into an arm of government itself.

He said: "What my members find most disturbing of all is that here we have university people who know about research and academic life doing a job that could have been done by amateurs."

The professor added that in rejecting the report and calling for a conference on modern languages BUAS hoped to illustrate the absurdity of "picking on" Russian studies which contributed to only one per cent of the UGC's total budget but whose academic and strategic significance far outweighed the discipline's relatively small numbers.

He stressed that BUAS felt Russian had been chosen because of its political vulnerability as a "test case" before the Government tried to put across further "Draconian measures".

"In terms of loss to the profession it is just unthinkable", he said.

Strathclyde University Senate has told the University Grants Committee that its report on Russian studies is "superficial, subjective, ill-conceived and poorly argued". In a letter to them the university says that any attempt to impose the proposals would be regarded as "a direct attack on the academic autonomy and integrity of the university senate".

The report had recommended that the teaching of Russian at Strathclyde should be transferred to Glasgow University. Strathclyde says that the recommendation would involve additional costs and would raise worrying implications for the future of other minority subjects and of smaller departments.

Confusion at Tories' conference after surprise election of 'anti-NUS' chairman

Division in the ranks over union affiliation

by Paul Flather

Conservative students' policy on the National Union of Students (NUS) is in disarray following a confused conference in Loughborough last week.

The Federation of Conservative Students, which has 19,000 members, have passed a motion reaffirming as "fundamental" the strategy of involvement within a national students union.

But the same motion calls on the federation to "reform NUS using disaffiliatory pressure and political working from within", and calls on the FCS national committee to provide information for or against disaffiliation as requested.

The confusion in voting came in the wake of the surprise election of Mr Peter Young, an Aberdeen student, as the Chairman of FCS. He beat his closest rival Miss Anna Soubry by 127 votes to 118.

Mr Young, arrested earlier this year while attending an unofficial youth congress in Poland, was elected on a platform of voluntary membership of NUS and strong opposition to all left-wingers in student unions.

"I was elected on an anti-NUS platform. Also on taking a tough line against the left and for stronger ties with and support for the Government's policies," Mr Young said soon after his election.

Miss Soubry, who is standing for the presidency of NUS later this month supported the prevailing policy of the FCS to work from within NUS to democratise the union.

"It will be absolutely disastrous if we withdraw from NUS. We will become stale, we will lose access to an important national forum for debate and publicity. We will also lose credibility among students if all we do is campaign to disaffiliate from NUS", she said.

Both sides agree that the election, the most keenly fought for many years, was marked by "dirty campaigns". Mr Young had to first defuse a vote of no-confidence by "supporting" it, and then had his report to conference accepted after a debate lasting two hours instead of the usual 30 minutes.

Strong organisation and a groundswell of opinion against NUS and a "London clique" running the federation were cited as factors that helped Mr Young's campaign. His supporters will hold eight out of 11 posts on the committee from the autumn.

The FCS national committee will meet in three weeks to decipher exactly what policy on NUS was passed. The committee will also have to sort out a complicated set of amendments on a motion on education. Conference also voted in favour of nuclear power and a new civil defence force, but against conscription.

Mr Trevor Phillips, NUS national president, said the motion could be used by the new leadership to push disaffiliation from the union. "But it will ruin the respect of Conservative students if the federation simply becomes a tool of the right-wing."

Earlier the conference heard an appeal from Dr Rhodes Boyson, under-secretary for higher education, for responsibility. "The policies of some student unions, of sitins, academic disruption and demonstrations will do absolutely nothing to help the student image", he said.

Mr Edward Heath, life patron of the FCS, was given a five-minute standing ovation when he stepped on the platform to speak on world affairs.

The former Prime Minister was in his most statesmanlike mood as he encouraged delegates to work to promote the North-South dialogue between rich and poor nations. He came out strongly against the Government policy to raise overseas student fees.

He said overseas students should be encouraged because they would bring orders back to Britain, because Britain had the highest academic standards in the world, and because some courses would have to close without their support.



Conservative students at the conference



Anna Soubry: narrowly defeated

Bitter mood at Scottish conference

by Olga Wojtas

The mood of the National Union of Students' Scottish Conference, held in Stirling last weekend, was one of frustration and bitterness towards the Government.

The re-elected chairwoman, Ms Jeane Freeman, warned that the Government risked alienating the present young generation whose feelings of resentment and hopelessness would result in a complete lack of involvement with the country's future.

The issue which provoked the most anger and bitterness was that of student grants. Ms Freeman said the Government had accepted the NUS prediction that inflation would be running at 24 per cent by the time students got their grants. In spite of this, they had been told there would be a 5 per cent cut in grants as a contribution to the public expenditure cuts. "There's nothing worse than being told you deserve something and then have it taken away", said Ms Freeman. "We will continue to campaign to prove that students are worth an adequate grant and that this is an investment."

Conference voted to support the STUC's day of action on May 14 by working to close down all institutes of higher and further education.

Conference also strongly condemned the general teaching council of Scotland's proposal to close some of the smaller colleges of education, and criticized the notion that Scottish education standards were satisfactory and there was a surplus of teachers. Policy was passed upholding the 10-college system, and maintaining that schoolchildren would be harmed if any were closed.

Conference pledged its support for the campaign to stop the Criminal Justice Bill, calling the bill a threat to human rights which simply legitimized current illegal police activity.

OU students air their grievances

The unusual problems and issues faced by Britain's largest single student body were highlighted at the weekend when members of the Open University Students' Association (OUSA) met for their annual conference.

During two days of concentrated sessions at Nottingham University, the 450 delegates who came from as far apart as the Isle of Wight, Northern Ireland and Orkney, thrashed out their policy for the coming year.

Not surprisingly, much of the debate centred round the lack of grants and the Government cuts in education. In spite of doubts expressed about its effectiveness, the conference agreed overwhelmingly to continue its campaign for mandatory grants, fight the continuing threat to discretionary awards, and step up the programme of action against cuts in public spending.

In addition to the concern about the growing financial hardship faced by many Open University students, worry was expressed about possible rescheduling of BBC/OU programmes to inaccessible times, and the very real threat of cuts in the amount of face-to-face tuition and counselling support which supplements the written course materials.

Much of the conference time was also taken up with motions from individual branches which reflected the particular problems faced by such a large and scattered organization.

Rural branches highlighted the problems of students who have to make 500-mile round trips for essential tutorials, engineering students emphasized the deficiencies of their course which is not recognized by the major professional institutes; a demand was made for more courses in business studies and commerce; handicapped students put forward a plea for more volunteer support and loans for special equipment.

Although the primary characteristic of the two days was consensus and the majority of delegates eschewed any hint of party political grouping, a few issues did engender heated debate.

Delegates were sharply divided about the question of affiliation with the National Union of Students, but voted in the end to pursue the possibility through a joint NUS/OUSA standing committee.

The motion on the cancellation of a study tour for severely handicapped students planned last summer proved an emotive issue, but the conference resolved in the future to concentrate on using its welfare fund to reach as wide a range of disadvantaged students as possible.

Foreign sales trips 'a waste of time'

by John O'Leary

Universities are wasting time and money on fruitless trips abroad hoping to recruit students for next year, Mr James Platt, director of the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, says in a new report.

The report, entitled *Education for the World*, suggests the establishment of a marketing unit to promote British higher education courses abroad and recruit students on the spot. The various sectors would combine to finance the unit.

Mr Platt has visited 11 British universities and had reports on six others in the last month, trying to assess the likely impact of increased tuition fees for overseas students.

He concludes that although some institutions will continue to attract some (but perhaps not enough) foreign students, many still need help with recruitment.

"They recognise the diseconomy of the United Kingdom system of sending large numbers of (untrained) academic salesmen abroad to promote single institutions, for example in the United States, where representatives of United Kingdom universities are now descending en serie upon a predictable group of American universities", he says, "with diminishing—if any—results".

In attempting to help, the Central Bureau will encourage the spread of exchanges and also provide information on British courses for ministeries of education and administrators in more than 100 countries. It is to add to its publications by producing a special list of higher education courses for 1980-81 and 1981-82.

But Mr Platt stresses that a more effective approach would be to set up a small, professional unit to provide the necessary publicity, public relations and salesmanship. This should consist of: "A kind of flying squad, thoroughly acquainted with all sectors of the system, armed with details of courses and colleges and preferably with the authority to accept students on the spot and to discuss longer-term placement and exchange schemes."

Any such unit would require the support of the major organizations concerned with higher education, Mr Platt says. Discussions have already begun with the Universities Central Council for Admissions and views are being canvassed among the bureau's clients.

Pay teachers extra cash to promote engineering, says Finniston response

Paying teachers extra to boost training for engineering skills in schools and colleges should be considered by the Department of Education and Science, the education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities says in its comment on the Finniston engineering report.

The AMA says it recognizes the crucial role played by enthusiastic teachers in developing engineers of the future and that consideration should be given to the introduction of differential salaries for teachers of shortage subjects such as maths, science and crafts.

The association strongly defends the work of the local authority sector of higher and advanced education. It points out that it alone can claim much of the credit for the development of the sandwich courses that Finniston thought so important but is annoyed at the report's "uncritical retelling" of the idea that the LEAs interfere too much in the work of the colleges.

"As employers, maintainers of the colleges and as authorities responsible for endorsing applications for our approval, LEAs have and must exercise a duty of accountability to the local electorate they serve", it says.

The AMA also critical of the amount of attention given in the Finniston report to polytechnics without adequately acknowledging the contribution to engineering education and training made by other advanced further education colleges.

In its reaction the Institution of Structural Engineers criticizes the proposal for a new engineering authority as misconceived and dangerous.

It says that the control of education, training and the registration of professional engineers in the United Kingdom should be left in the hands of the engineering profession.

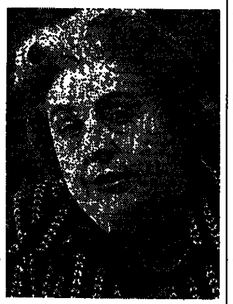
"We have a pride in our profession and believe that to pass its control to an engineering authority of the nature proposed in the report would be harmful and not in the public interest," it says in a letter to Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary.

The institution expects the Government to recognize the way in which the Engineers Registration Board of the Council of Engineering Institutions has created machinery for the registration of chartered engineers, technician engineers and engineering technicians.

But it accepts that an engineering authority accountable to Parliament and modelled on the General Medical Council and the Architects Registration Council would be desirable and necessary if other aspects of the Finniston report are implemented from public funds.

The Finniston report pays scant attention to technician engineers despite its own figures which show that half the recruits to engineering come through the part-time route culminating in Higher National or Technical Education Council awards, says the Highway and Traffic Technicians Association.

The association welcomes an engineering authority capable of giving strong leadership to the profession but says that the accreditation of courses and training schemes and assessment of individual candidates should be the province of institutions.



Conversion courses urged

by Charlotte Barry

Short maths and science "conversion" courses should be introduced for the girls with one liberal arts A level who have been squeezed out of teacher training by the cutbacks, the Equal Opportunities Commission has urged.

This would enable them to enter science and maths-based Higher National Diploma courses and would increase the number of girls going into engineering, technical and scientific jobs, Baroness Lockwood (above), chairman of the EOC, told a schools meeting at Imperial College, London.

Outlining the stages at which girls are diverted from science and technology subjects, Baroness Lockwood said that in the primary schools girls are estranged from maths, and not encouraged to play with mechanical toys or develop three-dimensional and mechanical skills.

"In the secondary schools where the important subject choices are made, we find girls opting for lower-level maths courses for examination purposes, and subsequently lacking in an adequate knowledge for future maths-based science and engineering courses."

Lady Lockwood pointed out that although less than half a per cent of Britain's engineers are women, they do well on scientific and engineering courses at university. At Imperial College, women students do twice as well as the men in terms of first-class degrees and graduation prizes. But women number only 7 per cent of all first-year engineering and technology university students.

She also called for more conditions assisting women to maintain their careers in engineering. Part-time work should be available to women bringing up families and six-month attachments to companies for retraining should be introduced for those returning to full-time employment.

Untrained lecturers 'a scandal'

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (Scotland) has claimed that 40 per cent of further education college lecturers in Scotland have had no teacher training because some education authorities have failed to release them.

In one of the worst authorities, says the NAS/UWT (until recently the Scottish Schoolteachers' Association), 80 per cent of the lecturers are untrained, and it calls on the Scottish Secretary to overcome the scandal immediately.

But the Educational Institute of Scotland, the country's largest teaching union which represents 65 per cent of further education lecturers, has dismissed the association's figures as wildly inaccurate.

EIS further education spokesman Arthur Houston, said local authorities were coping with two additional difficulties this year: restrictions on public expenditure had made it difficult to find resources for relief teachers, and new conditions of service, which limited lecturers' day contact to 24 hours a week, required an additional number of lecturers which had not been met.

Despite these difficulties, Strathclyde Region, which was responsible for half of Scotland's further education colleges, had managed to release the same number of lecturers as last year.

Mr Houston said he would certainly have been informed if 80 per cent of lecturers were untrained in any authority. The EIS was keeping a very close watch on the situation, but was satisfied that lecturers were being released in due course. However, the EIS agreed with the association that lecturers should be released for in-service training within their first two years.

The secretary of the Scottish Further Education Association, which has already made representations to local authorities, Mr David Bleiman commented: "We are very concerned at the increasing difficulty which members are experiencing in obtaining release for in-service training. We feel the authorities haven't appointed sufficient staff to enable them to comply with the terms and conditions of service."

Plans drawn up for battle over redundancies at Trafford

by David Jobbins

A major confrontation was threatened this week by Trafford education authority's determination to ignore the national agreement which requires lecturers to be given one year's notice of redundancies.

Trafford is seeking to make up to 75 further education lecturers redundant effective from September by allowing only three months from the date by which it intends to issue redundancies if job savings cannot be made in other ways.

The formal consultation period with the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education ends today.

The national agreement between the teaching unions and the Council of Local Education Authorities stipulates that one year's notice of redundancy should be given. But Trafford refuses to be bound by it.

"Our position is that the national document of 1975 is a set of recommendations", a spokesman said.

Trafford will present a crucial test case for the new national joint council governing further education lecturers' conditions of employment, which are now no longer dealt with by ELSA.

Neither the employers nor the teachers' management representatives on the new body, which has so far only met once, to ensure individual authorities honour the one-year notice agreement. The union has written to the Local Authorities' Conditions of Service Advisory Board, which services the management side of the new council, about the case.

LACSAB officials are now seeking talks with Trafford to discuss the developing situation.

Locally union representatives are disappointed with the progress made in their talks with the authority, which they say is insisting that it is further education's turn to bear the brunt of the cuts.

But they claim a limited success in persuading Trafford to agree to a local agreement giving specified lecturers facing redundancy because of the cutbacks made by the authority in its "provision for overseas students the right to one year's notice.

A local NATFHE officer said: "Trafford is now in the peculiar position because one set of staff is protected to a greater degree than another."

Trafford is seeking to shed the posts through early retirement schemes, redeployment, voluntary redundancy and finally compulsory redundancy.

Faculty dean faces inquiry

A faculty dean at Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic is to face an inquiry into the way he has performed his duties. Dr Helmut Heisler, head of the social science faculty, has been suspended on full pay pending the outcome of a hearing of his case by a sub-committee of governors.

A polytechnic statement said: "Dr Heisler will be called before a sub-committee of the board of governors as soon as possible, but this is unlikely to be before mid-April. The sub-committee is set up to consider Dr Heisler's performance of his duties."

The polytechnic regards the case as *sub judice* and will not add its formal comments. But it is understood that although polytechnic director Mr Geoffrey Holroyde has referred to a "quasi-judicial situation" and a "formal disciplinary process" in a confidential memorandum, there is no question of illegality or misconduct to be considered by the committee.

A governors' working party has been carrying out a separate inquiry into the running of the faculty and is expected to make its final report soon.

But the allegation against Dr Heisler does not arise from the inquiry, it is understood.

Lecturers and MSC cooperate for youth

A major cooperative effort between the leading lecturers' unions and the Manpower Services Commission is to be launched later this month with the first of a series of conferences on the further education contribution to the Youth Opportunity Programme.

The series of one-day regional conferences, which have the support of the Department of Education and Science and the Associations of Metropolitan Authorities and County Councils, are designed to ensure that few young people involved in YOP have had opportunities to attend courses run by local education authorities and further education colleges.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, the joint sponsor with the MSC, says that until now the rapid build-up of the programme and its related provision, in further education has meant that organization and planning problems have been handled on an improvised basis.

Now, however, it believes that the time has come for an examination of the ways in which provision for the 16 to 19-year-old group can be organized and interested at levels of individual LEAs and colleges more systematically.

Mr Mick Farley, assistant secretary for further education at NATFHE, said: "The conversation between the MSC and NATFHE on this issue reflects the concern that both have in improving the quality of YOP, in greater involvement of the FE service in the schemes, and in a movement towards which an FE input in these can be organized on a local authority-wide basis covering all the schemes."

The eight conferences which are meant to complement a series of sponsored seminars by the Further Education Unit and the Regional Advisory Councils will run from the end of April throughout May at colleges in London, Coventry, Durham, Warrington, Somerset, Leeds and Wales.

Validation issues

Last week's article on *Partnership in Validation* in *The TIMES* should have noted that some of the reactions quoted were taken from an article edited by Mr Robin Alexander in the February issue of *Evaluation Newsletter*, which is published bimonthly by the Society for Research into Higher Education, University of Surrey, to promote discussion and activity on course evaluation. The *Newsletter* has to date listed details of almost 30 evaluation projects and provided a cumulative register of 60 other studies. It has gained in significance with the introduction of CNAA's proposals on course validation.

North American News

Carter orders urgent science review

From Clive Cookson
WASHINGTON

President Carter has told his education officials to make a rapid assessment of the state of science education and training in the United States. About ten people in the new Education Department and the National Science Foundation are working full-time on the job.

Mr Carter's memorandum to Education Secretary Shirley Hufstedler and NSF director Richard Atkinson, asking them to cooperate on the review, set a deadline of July 1. By then he wants policy options for improving science education at the school and university levels.

The President did not spell out his reasons for ordering the review, which has been given no publicity so far, but administration sources indicate that there are four main motives.

First, the White House is becoming increasingly disturbed by reports that the United States faces severe manpower shortages in some key areas of science and technology in the 1980s. Mr Carter is particularly worried that there will not be enough engineers to carry out the country's ambitious energy programmes, notably synthetic fuels, nor to develop and build new weapons systems.

Second, Mr Carter and his science adviser Frank Press are concerned about reports that the Soviet Union has greatly improved its science education in the past few years and is now training far more scientists than the United States. The President made his decision to review American science education in January or February, when his post-Afghanistan anti-Russian feelings were at their strongest.

Third, the rate of industrial innovation in the United States has been declining for several years, and productivity has almost stopped rising. Last year, after a lengthy domestic policy review, President Carter announced a series of government initiatives to improve the climate for innovation, but he did not include deficiencies in science and engineering education as a possible factor. Now Mr Carter wants to make up for that omission.

Fourth, there has been a steady stream of studies and articles with titles like "The sorry state of school science". There is widespread public and professional concern that American science education, particularly at the secondary school level, is in a mess, and the President wants to respond to it.

The National Science Foundation will be making a comparison of science and engineering education in the United States and the Soviet Union, as part of its contribution to the review. One piece of evidence they are using is an unpublished paper on Soviet science education by Izaak Wirszup, professor of mathematics at Chicago University and an expert on East European science. He shows that the Russians made dramatic strides during the 1970s towards the goal of primary and secondary education for all, and that Soviet children receive far more rigorous exposure to science and mathematics than their American counterparts.

Soviet higher education also turns out many more scientists and engineers than American colleges and universities, though it focuses much more on narrow technical training for specific jobs.

However, a senior NSF official said: "While the Russians seem to be working much harder at science and mathematics at the secondary level, it is not clear to me that this results in any improvement in the quality of research and development".

A White House science aide emphasized that the review was not comparable with the explosion of concern about American science and engineering and the drive to catch up with the Russians that followed the launching of the first Soviet sputnik satellite in 1957. "We don't want to charge off into another huge sputnik enterprise", he said.

Among other Soviet-American comparisons being used by the NSF review team is work on the total number of professional scientists and engineers by Soviet experts at the United States census bureau. They show that the Soviet Union now has about 950,000 scientific workers, compared with 125,000 in 1950. (The comparable figure for the United States is about 620,000).

There has not been a comparable review of American science education at all levels for many years. But the National Science Foundation did assess the state of pre-college science in the United States in 1977-78 (without making specific recommendations for improvement). The NSF found that the advances made in the science curriculum 20 years ago as a direct result of the sputnik had virtually disappeared, and science teaching in American schools was no better than it had been in the 1950s.

"The cry for more emphasis on 'basic' skills such as reading and arithmetic has largely pushed the teaching of science into the background, it, indeed, it had ever left", the NSF said. The reason seemed to be that no one—university scientists, school administrators or teachers—was really interested in school science.

The Education Department is starting off its part of the review by assessing the effectiveness of all the federal programmes to support and improve science education, an Education Department official said. It will then decide what new programmes might be initiated. The department will also study science education in Germany and Japan, to see whether these countries' superior industrial performance can be attributed to any features of their educational system.



President Carter: worried the Soviet Union trains more scientists.

US cracks down on immigrants

Only a year after the US Government relaxed its immigration rules for foreign students, it has proposed new regulations to tighten them up again.

Students will again have to report to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at least once a year to prove that they are still properly enrolled at a college or university.

Since the beginning of 1979, foreigners have been permitted to study in the United States for an indefinite period without further contact with the immigration authorities, as long as they maintain their status as full-time students.

If the new regulations take effect—first there is a two month period for public comments on the proposed changes—all overseas students in the country will be required to visit an INS office in groups over a six-month period to prove that they have not violated the terms of their visa.

The yearly reporting requirements had been dropped because it was thought to be a waste of time and manpower. Its reinstatement follows the experience of the INS at the end of last year when immigration officers attempted a selective crackdown on Iranian students, on the orders of President Carter.

They found they had lost track of many of the Iranians supposedly studying in the United States, who had in fact transferred to another college or dropped out without telling the INS.

Open university told to get out of town

Athabasca University in Alberta—the closest equivalent in North America to Britain's Open University—has been rocked by the provincial government's decision to move it from Edmonton, the capital, to a small town 90 miles to the north. The university president, Dr W. A. (Sam) Smith, has resigned and the 130 staff members have been thrown into turmoil by the government's surprise announcement.

The town to which the university will move is called Athabasca. That sounds like a natural location for Athabasca University, but the staff do not see it that way. The university said it was named after the wide-open Athabasca region of Northern Alberta as a symbol of its function as a distance learning institution, and not specifically after the town of Athabasca, whose population is 1,800.

The university's governing council, administration and staff all wanted to be given a permanent site in Edmonton, whose population is 500,000, where they occupy what one faculty member describes as "rather unprepossessing rented premises in a largely industrial area".

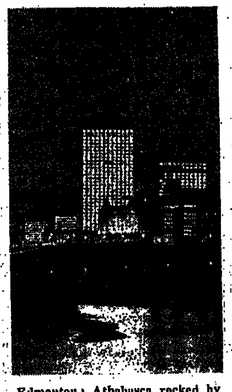
They depend closely on their links with the computing and library services at the huge University of Alberta in Edmonton, and on their academic contacts there.

Isolated in Athabasca, will there be enough services, they wonder, and can the local post office cope with the volume of mail they will generate? What about the telephone system?

More important, what about the intellectual isolation? That will be aggravated because Athabasca operates entirely as a distance learning institution. There is no campus with resident students to provide intellectual stimulation.

The university has put all those points to the Alberta government, which provides 83 per cent of its $5.5m a year budget, over the past two years during which the relocation of the university has been a key issue. But the government is politically committed to a policy of decentralization—moving provincial agencies away from Edmonton to rural Alberta. Twenty-two communities presented the government with briefs trying to attract Athabasca University, and the town of Athabasca won the contest.

The university was outraged not only by the inconvenience of having to move to Athabasca but also by the implication that it was a government agency subject to the political whim of the Cabinet. "I am completely convinced that this unilateral decision by the government represented a serious attack on the integrity and autonomy of this university and indirectly on all universities in the province. I consider this a moral issue of the first order for the university", said Dr Smith, who was told of the relocation decision only an hour before James Horsman, the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, made it public.



Edmonton: Athabasca rocked by decision to move.

Dr Smith, who became president of Athabasca University in 1976, hoped that the governing council would fight the government's decision, but the council merely passed a resolution expressing extreme disappointment at the lack of consultation and concern about the impact on the university and its staff. Dr Smith made it clear that he would not have resigned if the governing council had taken a harder line.

"It was my strong recommendation to the council that they appreciate the fact that an acceptance of this decision without the most vigorous of resistance constituted an acceptance of a role as a government agency and a change in the basic nature of our university", he said.

"I challenged the quality of the decision arguing that none of the educational considerations on which we had made our voluminous recommendations to the government has been refuted, and that instead a set of values properly described as exclusively economic and political had been invoked, and that the process by which the decision had been reached was unconscionable".

The Athabasca University Faculty Association wants the governing council to ask the government to set up a task force to look at the implications of the relocation—in the hope that the decision might be reversed. However, Mr Horsman made clear that the decision was final. "There haven't been any mass resignations or anything like that", a university official said, "but I think everybody is going to be looking for a new job".

The government estimates that the relocation of Athabasca University will cost $16m. But as a member of the university pointed out, "By the time it actually happens it could well be $50m." The move is scheduled to take place between 1982 and 1984.

Student numbers have been increasing at a rate of 40 per cent a year. Course enrolments will reach 4,800 this year and the projection for 1984 is 12,000. By then the university staff should have grown to 300.

Athabasca is an open university, and the only admissions requirement is that entrants should be over 18... It offers more than 40 undergraduate courses leading to two types of degree: bachelor of arts and bachelor of general studies.

Courses are supplemented by television programmes, which are carried by local stations in Alberta, usually on cable TV. A quarter of Athabasca's students live elsewhere in Canada and they can be sent video tapes of the programmes. In addition, the university arranges occasional line sessions with its faculty members at various locations in the province.

As it becomes established, Athabasca is developing more of its own courses and materials and relying less on those bought from the Open University. It is now using six Open University courses.

In the years ahead the new Open Learning Institute guiding under way in the neighbouring province of British Columbia — also with the assistance of the Open University— will become an important partner for Athabasca. The two institutions are, for example, beginning a experiment with a joint satellite delivery system for Alberta and British Columbia.

Jobs for students in costliest head count in history

The 1980 United States census—the most expensive head count in history—is providing hundreds of students with an opportunity to study demographics and population statistics and to earn money and academic credit working as census enumerators.

The Census Bureau has supported a course, called the Experimental Student Intern Programme, which is being offered at 46 colleges and universities. It has a classroom and practical components.

The theoretical part is based on a 14-chapter textbook, *Census 280: Continuing the Fact-finder Tradition*, written by a collection of academics and published by the Government. The text covers introductory legislatures and in local councils. More importantly, perhaps, the figures determine the distribution of $50,000m in federal funds to states and localities. Big cities with large minority populations claim to have lost hundreds of millions of dollars as a result of the 1970 undercount.

That is why the Experimental Student Intern Programme has been focused on colleges and universities in large urban centres with high concentrations of minority groups. Most of the 46 participating institutions have substantial minority enrolments.

Students are included in the population counts of their university or college communities. Those that commute from home are counted with their families. This week every student should have received an individual census form.

The standard short form asks 19 straightforward questions. But about 20 per cent of the population will get a long form containing 65 questions, including several sensitive ones about income, health and marital history (the Census Bureau promises that the answers will be kept confidential for 72 years).

The most interesting results of the census will emerge from the detailed questions. Demographers are already pretty sure what the simple head count will show: a population of 222 million with a substantial shift from the north and east to the south and west since 1970.

The shortage of enumerators from racial minorities is particularly worrying because it makes it more likely that the 1980 Census will underestimate the number of blacks and Latin Americans in the United States. On the basis of post-census samplings, experts believe this happened in 1970, when the undercount was 1.5 per cent for whites and 7.7 per cent for blacks.

The political consequences of such a differential undercount are serious, for the decennial census is used to apportion seats in the United States House of Representatives, in state legislatures and in local councils. More importantly, perhaps, the figures determine the distribution of $50,000m in federal funds to states and localities. Big cities with large minority populations claim to have lost hundreds of millions of dollars as a result of the 1970 undercount.

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Overseas News

Dutch open the door to businessmen

from Lionel Cohen

NIJMEGEN

Successful businessmen and industrialists could soon be taking an active part in Dutch university teaching and research if the Government adopts recently announced proposals. These proposals are contained in the Interim Report of an advisory body which was established to examine academic structures in the universities following the last "experimental" administrative reorganization in 1970.

The committee, under the chairmanship of electrical engineer Professor A. van Trier, sees scope for widening the traditional catchment area for recruiting Dutch academic staff by imposing an obligation on all higher education institutions to advertise staff vacancies in a form that will encourage newcomers from outside existing Dutch academic circles to apply.

In Holland, these circles of academic specialization comprise small and tightly-knit national groupings in every discipline. They are formed, not only on the basis of academic ability, but also on the personal knowledge of each participant.

Acceptance by the group is an essential pre-requisite to professional advancement and it is precisely because the Dutch university world is so small that such groups can exert effective pressure on recruitment policy. In practice, the integrated working of Dutch higher education depends more for its co-ordination upon the co-operative interaction of these various academic groupings than upon any central government edict. Consequently, any changes in recruitment policy which might lead to a challenge to the power of such groups would also represent a threat to the central integrative mechanism of the present system.

In spite of this, Government emphasis on the need for closer co-operation between business and industry on one side, and the universities on the other, and in particular, the need to concentrate more university research upon projects with practical social and industrial applications, may eventually lead to some changes in recruitment policy on the universities. The increasing dependence of universities on securing contracts for research projects as a means of maintaining staffing levels, leads to the logic of reserving some of these staff appointments for persons with practical and related experience in business or industry.

But at this stage the van Trier committee is not going so far as to specify any particular area of recruitment which needs to be encouraged.

The problem, however, is that if the closer commercial relationship between industry and the universities leads to a recruitment policy directed towards successful industrialists and businessmen, it may be necessary to consider applicants with limited academic qualifications but whose practical experience and achievements justify the payment of very high salaries—salaries which, up to now, have mainly been reserved for professorial appointments. But it is particularly at professorial level that access to these traditional academic groupings is either secured or confirmed, so that any sudden deluge of new "business professors" could be regarded by the groups concerned as a potential threat both to professional unity and academic standards.

The committee's solution to the recruitment problem and the associated career structure has a characteristically pragmatic Dutch flavour. Their answer, in short, is to relate the salary paid in each case as much to the individual as to the job. In particular, a two-stage reorganization is outlined under which all university academic staffs below professorial level will be re-classified into three categories roughly equivalent to senior lecturer, lecturer and research assistant. But whereas the present staff structures of Dutch universities are based upon a rigid, nationally-determined salary structure, the van Trier Committee proposes that, in future, universities should be given scope to vary in an upwards direction the payments made to Lecturers and Senior Lecturers who had "demonstrably outstanding personal qualities."

Russian teacher training fails to meet the nation's needs

from Michael Binyon

MOSCOW

Teacher training in the Soviet Union appears to be increasingly unable to fulfil the country's needs, and in the past few months has been strongly criticized both by Government officials and by academics.

The main difficulties are that the training institutes do not attract staff with high qualifications, are unable to fill the number of places for mathematics and science students and turn out large numbers of graduates who refuse to take up posts as teachers, especially in the villages.

Earlier this year the consultative council of the Soviet ministry of education discussed the low placement rate of newly trained teachers, and concluded that the situation was very unsatisfactory. On average throughout the country 72 per cent of new graduates went into teaching jobs last year.

In some republics the rate was far lower. In Georgia, for example, only 64 per cent of teaching specialists holding higher education qualifications had been placed by last October, and for those with a specialized secondary education only 34 per cent. Similar low rates were recorded in Azerbaijan, Tadzhikistan and Moldavia.

Last month Mr F. Panachin, first deputy minister of education, said some cities and districts were short of teachers while others had too many. As a result teachers were underworked in some parts of the country and overworked in others—to the detriment of the educational process in both cases. Meanwhile, he said, hundreds of thousands of people with a higher or secondary pedagogical education held jobs that were completely unrelated to teaching.

There are approximately 200 teacher training institutes in the Soviet Union. But as with many Soviet higher education institutions, applicants often have little real intention of making a career of the subject they say they want to study, and undertake a teaching course either because it is the easiest to get into or because it affords a fairly easy post-secondary qualification. On graduation many simply do not report for assignment.

Writing in *Uchitelskaya Gazeta*, the teachers' newspaper, Mr Panachin said the failure of graduates to go into teaching had to be tackled at many levels: local education ministries, councils and advisory bodies. But he gave a warning that since job assignments determined people's destinies, great care had to be taken to heed graduates' own interests and aspirations.

He suggested that as a way of increasing young people's civil and legal responsibilities to report for a teaching job, diplomas should be awarded to graduates only on completion of a year's probation.

Mr Panachin also complained that the qualifications of many teachers were still too low. He said more than 90 per cent of teachers of history, physics and Russian had higher education, and for the first time, to all intents and purposes, Soviet primary schools now had staffs with higher education. But there were still about 13,500 primary teachers without even a specialized secondary education and a further 33,000 in various subjects with only secondary education.

He said the responsibility for improvement fell on the lecturers at teacher training colleges. But many were not sufficiently qualified, some 32 institutes had no doctors of science or full professors on the staff, and in some disciplines very few lecturers were engaged in research.

In the past three years not a single doctoral dissertation had been defended at three leading institutes in Moscow, Leningrad or Kiev. Not one doctoral dissertation in the History of Education had been defended since 1975, and in 1978 only 13 per cent of the doctoral students in the field of education defended their dissertations on schedule.

Lecturers narrowly avoid axe at Port Elizabeth

from Martin Feinstein

JOHANNESBURG

The University of Port Elizabeth has narrowly avoided retrenching 14 academics. They—and two departments—were to have been phased out at the end of the year, when a major Government subsidy is due to expire.

The withdrawal of the university's foundation subsidy of 1,331 million rand a year (£660m) which it has received since 1965, has put it on the edge of a deep financial plunge. Although warned in 1975 that the subsidy would end next year, UPE has found it will be unable to pay for the 14 posts when it only draws the normal Government subsidy, based on student numbers.

The principal, Professor Ernest Marais, announced the decision earlier this month. Although he said it was not easy for him, the move left many staff members bitter. These would have been the first academic jobs lost as a result of the higher education squeeze, although most universities have frozen posts as an austerity measure.

Only after a university delegation met top education officials in Cape Town did the minister of national education, Mr Punt Janson, announce that money had been found to avert the cuts. But he did not say where it would come from, how much it was or whether it was to be a loan or a grant.

Talk of legal action was also rife, and had the council stood firm on its decision it could have faced an interdict challenging it on the grounds that the senate was not consulted beforehand. Allegations of financial mismanagement also followed, including that:

- 6,000 rand (£3,000) had been spent on a radar speed-trapping device for use on the campus;
- Senior lecturers made wasteful weekly trips to teach classes at two nearby towns that were too small to warrant the effort;
- The university has too many public relations officers (three), registrars (four) and sports administrators (four);
- A 1,500 rand (£750) duckpond built over a kilometre from the campus, remains unused, even by ducks.

Staff and students have also questioned the wisdom of spending some 30 million rand (£15m) on a showpiece campus, when the nearby technical college was as functional and built for much less. The head of the coloured labour party, the Reverend Alan Hendrickse, suggested the UPE could solve its financial problems by dropping the ban on black students.

"It would ease the accommodation difficulties blacks are currently experiencing on "black" campuses, and it would also encourage more students to enrol. In this way UPE would get its student quota", he said.

The cuts would have saved UPE about £230,000 rand (£119,000) a year, but the side-effects might have been much costlier. After Professor Marais' announcement many parents are likely to think twice before sending their children to a university troubled with money problems. If the university loses say, 10 per cent of its students next year, 200,000 rand (£150,000) would be sliced off its subsidy.

Professor Marais said the move had been "very traumatic, myself and my council did everything to avoid it."

Germans unimpressed by universities

from James Hutchinson

BONN

Most West Germans have a poor opinion of universities and students. According to a recent survey under a third of the public considers that the universities have made a significant contribution to the country's prosperity. A commonly expressed view was that "a lot of students have a cushy life at the expense of the taxpayer". Many people fear a glut of graduates, and there is still a widely held belief that universities are hot-beds of extremist politics.

The survey sought the opinions not only of a cross section of the population, but also of samples of university teachers, personnel, officers and employers. Many employers considered that standards of university education had fallen in the past 10 years. Most university teachers thought that the quality of school education had gone down, but on the whole the teachers believed that students deserved a better reputation than they have.

Their lack of prestige is one of the reasons why students often have great difficulty in finding accommodation. The general view among university teachers is that most German students are diligent to the point of dullness, and incredibly well behaved, but this news does not appear to have got around to landlords and landladies.

At the present count, there was a shortage of 5,000 bed-sitters for students in West Berlin, of 7,000 in Cologne and 3,000 in Münster.

Lectures start at University of Rhodesia

from Pat Smith

SALISBURY

Students from all parts of the country were still arriving to register last week as lectures officially began at the University of Rhodesia.

The sudden influx of mainly black students marks the end of a year for the university. From mid-April 17 it will be renamed the University of Zimbabwe, as part of the independence day changes following Mr Mugabe's election victory and the establishment of black majority rule.

So far over 900 new students have enrolled for the first year. Among the 400 of these are ex-servicemen, who have been granted exemption certificates from the call-up during the days of military manpower.

"It's unbelievable, with the end of the war people are coming back everywhere." In an address on March 21 to the National Union Association one of the few bastions for white liberal opinion, Professor Jack Lewis, the acting principal and vice-chancellor, said that the university would have to open out and into the world around after a dependence, in order to play a part in the social and economic development of the country.

Professor Lewis, former head of the department of development studies at London University's Institute of Education, strongly defended the academic traditions and standards at the university and said that Zimbabwe must not make the same mistake as Britain in expanding university education.

"In Britain the venture into universal university education has been in my opinion, a failure, they did it too quickly. They did it in a starry-eyed belief that everyone would have a chance to go to university.

"They are beginning to reap the consequences of that. A considerable proportion of young men and women are not qualified for university education even if they have got the paper qualifications because they haven't got the attitude of mind appropriate to the demands of university makes on its members," said Professor Lewis.

Professor Lewis said the university would not reopen as long as it served by colleges and polytechnics and that the Government ought to move quickly to establish such further colleges in Salisbury and Bulawayo to bring students up to university entrance standards.

In the next three years the university plans to develop links with education programmes for adults. It has been awarded a £50,000 grant for a pilot project for people who have received little formal education but need to improve their standards to better their career opportunities. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the population are illiterate.

The university's mainly white staff this month received a wage rise of between 30 and 40 per cent. Many of them have been regraded upwards which could affect the career prospects of new black members of staff, appointed under the new government.

Campaign for jailed Argentinian

from a correspondent

Human rights campaigners are fighting to enable a leading Argentinian academic to take up the offer of a research fellowship at Glasgow University.

Dr Ernesto Villanueva, a brilliant sociologist, was arrested in 1975 and charged with possessing arms. Finally tried in 1978, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

His friends and human rights groups outside Argentina believe that his "crime" in the eyes of General Jorge Videla's ruling military is likely to have been his research into sensitive aspects of modern Argentine society such as employment, health care and rural poverty.

Dr Villanueva was only 30 when he became rector (vice-chancellor) of Buenos Aires University.

During his trial both his brother and defence lawyer "dissappeared", abducted by armed gangs. They have not been heard of since, and are among the estimated 15,000 people who have gone missing since the military takeover of March 1976.

Human rights activists in Scotland were able to use the 1978 World Cup to focus Scottish attention on Argentina, and one of the results of their efforts was the decision by Glasgow University's School of Latin American Studies to offer him an Honorary Research Fellowship. In January 1979 Britain granted him a visa.

Now Dr Villanueva's actual sentence is almost completed, but the London-based Committee for Human Rights in Argentina fears that the military will simply detain him "at the discretion of the National Executive Power".

That could mean unlimited imprisonment without hope of legal redress. Under the Argentine constitution, this power is balanced by the "right of option" whereby the detained citizen may choose to go into exile. Theoretically, this right still exists, although the military have severely qualified it with a number of decree laws. Friends of Villanueva in London say that when his sentence expires, he will apply for option.

The CHRA is trying to get as effective a campaign as possible organized around Dr Villanueva. "We will be contacting both staff and student organizations at Glasgow," said a representative. "Along with Scottish MPs, MEPs, political parties, churches, trade unions, Dr Bernard Williams, provost of King's College, Cambridge

150 sign petition over Julius Tomin

by Paul Flather

More than 150 leading American and European philosophers have now signed a petition condemning recent moves by the Czechoslovak authorities against intellectuals including the philosopher Dr Julius Tomin.

Dr Tomin and eight students were detained by the Czech secret police for 48 hours earlier this month for attending and organizing an unofficial philosophy seminar in Prague.

Dr Tomin was badly shaken and very bruised even though he did not resist the arrest.

Signatories to the petition include Professors W. V. O. Quine and Hilary Putnam from Harvard, Professor Jean Derrida and Professor Marsin from Paris, Professor Ota Otto Apel from Frankfurt, and Professor Isaiah Berlin, Sir Alfred Ayer, Sir Karl Popper and Professor Bryan Magee from Britain.

The disturbing truth about wife battering

Marital violence is a mode of behaviour respected for centuries, says a husband and wife team of sociologists who have conducted unique research into the subject.
Olga Wojtas reports



Rebecca and Russell Dobash: they refute the view that women seek violence.

The problem of wife battering has received a fair degree of prominence in the media since the first of the present 200 British Women's Aid refuges was set up in 1972. However, the usual treatment of the subject has done little to dispel the general non-comprehension of how severe, systematic and widespread the violence is.

Wife battering has inspired a great deal of anecdotal talk and little research but for several years, two sociology lecturers at Stirling University, Drs Rebecca and Russell Dobash, have conducted unique research into the subject, funded by the Scottish Home and Health Department. They have also served as consultants to the Department of the Environment and the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and worked closely with the National Women's Aid Federation and Scottish Women's Aid.

Their findings appear in a book, *Violence Against Wives: A Case Against the Patriarchy* (Open Books, £10.95) which has already received international recognition since its publication last month. It combines historical analysis with in-depth interviews with battered women, and police and court records. Its conclusions are disturbing.

The Dobashes discovered that wife battering, far from being the action of a pathological individual (a theory dear to many), is a mode of behaviour revered, respected and encouraged for centuries. Throughout Western history, there has been legal, political, economic and ideological support for a husband's authority over his wife and this includes his using physical force against her.

Although wife battering is now ostensibly illegal, it has not been rejected outright—it is simply that limits have been set on it: limits as to how much damage can be done to the woman before it is considered unacceptable, and limits on what the woman had to do before the violence was "provoked" and hence excusable.

The Dobashes believe—as does, theoretically, the law—that no form of verbal argument justifies violence. And they find the rationalization of the woman deserving chastisement comparable to that directed at other groups of victims, which saw blacks in the American south and Jews as legitimate targets, and their attackers as performing a public service.

They have also found subtle and insidious views which differentiate between a woman's right to argue and a man's right to argue. The argument is over when the man decides it is; if the woman persists, for example asking for housekeeping money, this is "nagging", and provocation.

The Dobashes also refute completely the view that women seek the violence, and are to blame for provoking it. "There is no documentation of this", says Dr Rebecca Dobash. "It is based on nothing but psycho-analytic ideology." They have not found one woman who enjoyed being beaten up.

What constantly surprises and depresses them is the underlying acceptance by society of the man's right to control the woman's behaviour. "It is virtually impossible for an egalitarian relationship to exist in the society we know today", says Dr Russell Dobash. "Males have been educated to be concerned about their own needs, and women have been socialized into being concerned about the male's needs."

These attitudes are so ingrained and automatic that even many who see themselves as liberated take it for granted that the woman will do certain domestic chores, say the Dobashes. The man helps upon request, and this is met with gratitude by the wife, but the obverse is not the case. Household responsibilities are seen not as work that could be done by anyone, but represent both a service to the person in authority and a sign of love and loyalty to him.

The Dobashes also point out that while "a woman's place is in the home" is commonly taken to mean that women do not go out to work, in fact historically women have always worked: responsibility for the home comes on top of this.

Marriage, the Dobashes have found, is the crucial juncture: there is more fluidity when the couple are courting or even living together. But marriage is thought to be of primary importance to women, and secondary importance to men. The onus, therefore, for the success of the marriage is on the woman.

"Primarily women go into marriage with a romantic, artificial view of what it is", says Dr Rebecca Dobash. "When they begin to realize they are being abused, they start blaming themselves, and ask: 'How can I change myself to please him so that he stops beating me?' It often takes a long time for them to realize they're not at fault."

The Dobashes found that the more the woman did to please her husband, the more he seemed to beat her without compunction.

The woman's position is exacerbated by the myth of family bliss and security which survives almost intact despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. She faces social stigma if she leaves her husband, although the Dobashes have found that the majority of battered women have left home at one time or another, but generally return for a variety of reasons: hope of the husband's reform, economic dependence, nowhere to stay, no childcare facilities, and fear of reprisals.

Everything conspires to make it almost impossible for the woman to leave permanently. But if she stays, there is a general view that domestic violence is somehow different from any other kind of violence and that outsiders should not intervene. Ironically, the majority of violent attacks occur in the household.

The Dobashes centred their research on what reached the official statistics and found that a quarter of all violent assaults were wife assaults. But this leaves a missing area, for as the police are often loth to intervene, the number of wife assaults is very much higher than what is reflected in police arrest figures.

This missing area is the subject of complementary research by Dr Fran Wasoff, of Edinburgh University, who is halfway through a three year competitively awarded SSRC grant in socio-legal studies, with a supplementary grant from the Scottish Home and Health Department. She has found that when women seek protection from domestic violence, the police mainly assist in ways which do not result in arrest.

She also found, having looked at all violent offences which came before the Scottish High Court in a year, that the pattern of reported crime is quite different from the details behind the crime.

In all cases where men had been violent to their wives, there was a history of violence towards the wives and never a history of the wife being violent to the man. Where there was a violent offence against the man, there was invariably a history of the man being violent to the woman, and almost never of the woman being violent to the man.

The women act in a desperate fashion in a variety of ways. To the man, it's part of the overall pattern", says Dr Wasoff.

The Dobashes found that women seldom attempted to respond to violence with violence, both because they feared even more force being used against them, and because it was often impossible to retaliate as they were immobilized by the man's greater strength.

The Dobashes are critical of American survey studies which have inspired the view as violent assaults a wife slapping her husband's face when she discovered he was having an affair, and a husband kicking his wife unconscious when his meal was not ready.

The most frequent source of confrontation, the Dobashes found, was sexual jealousy (almost always unfounded), followed by disagreements over money, and the husband's expectations regarding the woman's home-making.

They also point out that egalitarian vocabulary is sheer discrimination when it transforms wife battering into "spouse assault" or "marital violence".

"It is an incredible misnomer to talk about battered husbands", says Dr Russell Dobash. They have not come across any man who was persistently and severely intimidated by his wife. The use of force between adults in the home is systematically and disproportionately directed at women.

Dr Wasoff corroborates this. She has found only one case of a husband assaulted by his wife. The wife in question was having a nervous breakdown and soon after was admitted to a mental hospital.

The Dobashes discovered that violence against wives ranged from a single slap, usually experienced early on in the marriage, to attacks involving punching, kicking and choking. One man broke his foot kicking his wife. Belts, bottles and weapons are used on occasion. Injuries of split lips, broken teeth and hair pulled out are commonplace. The majority of attacks take place when the husband is sober, contrary to the popular idea of the drunken husband.

However, if a case ever reaches the courts and the husband pleads guilty (90 per cent do), he will usually be admonished or fined £5 or £10. The Dobashes comment wryly that it is cheaper to beat your wife than park on a double yellow line. And there must already be a history of violence if the husband is in court, as a first offence is never prosecuted.

In England and Wales, the courts can make an order to exclude a violent spouse from the matrimonial home, backing an injunction with the power of arrest. This is rarely done as the courts are unwilling to turn a man out of his home.

It places women, however, in a Catch-22 situation if they try to leave home and turn to the social agencies for alternative accommodation. They are told to get an injunction. If they do, they are not homeless, say the agencies, and if they do not, they are not battered.

Under Scots law, if a husband is the sole tenant, he cannot be excluded from the home. If the wife is sole tenant, he can be excluded, but this is a civil matter and the wife cannot call the police to eject him but must go through cumbersome and lengthy legal procedure. Former SNP MP Mr George Reid's private member's Bill to give greater legal protection to battered women in Scotland fell with the last government, and he was subjected to considerable verbal abuse for his efforts from infuriated husbands.

Based on their findings, the Dobashes recommend changes in the response to battered women of social, legal and medical agencies. The courts and police in Britain and the United States have shown themselves especially ineffectual in dealing with the problems of battered women, they say.

"The people who supposedly uphold the morals of our society have finally got to say this is not an acceptable form of behaviour in our community", says Dr Rebecca Dobash.

The Dobashes have considerable praise for the concrete and pragmatic approach of Women's Aid. The National Women's Aid Federation and Scottish Women's Aid are voluntary organizations which provide temporary shelter for battered women, along with their children. The Dobashes also urge a concerted educational campaign aimed at changing existing attitudes towards battered wives. "We're not saying that there are never positive and supportive responses", says Dr Rebecca Dobash. "There are, and they illustrate that a different reaction is possible, and could become the mode."



Dr Fran Wasoff: complementary research.

Figurehead steering a new course for London

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer says that his job as vice-chancellor of Cambridge University means sitting with his hands benignly over his stomach looking like a Buddha.

Or to put it another way—and his aphorisms are always worth commission to paper—the vice-chancellor is a little like the figurehead on an eighteenth-century battleship, leading the entire impressive thing but having little influence on the steering.

Not that he really believes that that is his role. One suspects that a purely ornamental role would be neither to his liking or within his capabilities. He has been more involved than the average Cambridge vice-chancellor in his previous administrative roles. He was Master of St Catharine's College from 1973 until last year. This means he is able to exercise a little more influence than most.

"But in a real sense I have much less influence than I did before last October (when he was appointed). Restraining myself from trying to influence things is one of the duties of the office."

He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge and stayed as a research fellow, fellow and dean. His subject is mathematics and he became a professor in 1971. The fact that the vice-chancellorship is a part-time job enabled him to give a 24 lecture series in mathematics during the Michaelmas term.

He has a reputation for being approachable and pro-student, and his style is highly honoured. His thinking does not fit into predictable grooves and he is quite prepared to challenge established opinions.

He is one of several vice-chancellors now saying that they should have accepted a quota system on overseas students when they were offered it by the last Labour government.

And he thinks that vice-chancellors reacted in the wrong way to the new policy. He says that it has become a "generalised protest that any vice-chancellor can let off at the drop of a hat".

"It is difficult to judge the seriousness of the plight universities are in. Nearly all vice-chancellors are predicting a 50 per cent drop in overseas numbers, spread over three years. It does not seem to me that there is any evidence on which you can predict. But if I had to guess I think it would be much less than that.

"Some universities are not charging the economic cost in the way the Government uses the phrase. The phrase 'economic cost' is no longer one that anyone can use objectively. If they have to say that numbers have not diminished but they have not charged the economic cost then they will be in dead trouble."

He thinks the vice-chancellors should have been more specific in their protests. The great shift of students from poor to rich countries has, he says, already happened.

In his view there were two classes of overseas student for which the universities should have expressed their special concern: first, the research students, who made a genuine contribution to the universities and second, students from poor countries for which we have a special responsibility, i.e. the Commonwealth. He thinks more money should have been earmarked in the overseas aid budget for such students.

Had there not been a change in the overseas students policy, Sir Peter thinks the universities could have survived the other financial cutbacks. But he sees incremental drift becoming a real headache and he also points out that in a squeeze universities will tend to hit research first, both because it is easier and because the recurrent grant is based, in the main, on student numbers.

Sir Peter's views on higher education have suddenly become very important to a large group of people outside Cambridge. He has been chosen as the person to chair the committee on academic organization which is to scrutinize the activities of sprawling London University.

He and his eight-member committee have the unenviable task of reviewing every aspect of the university's work to seek ways of protecting and promoting its teaching and research and to attempt at the same time to safeguard the jobs of the staff. Many feel that the twin aims are irreconcilable.

He has 21 months to report, not on the immediate financial problems but of what London will look like in the next 10 or 15 years.

The Flowers working party which examined London's medical schools, at least had the comfort that it was dealing with a single subject.

Sir Peter was chosen specifically for his ignorance—he had no connexion with or views of London University. But he is getting on with his homework fast and he judges the real crisis us a demographic one.

"The number of 18-year-olds rises, peaks in 1984-85 and between then and 1994-95 drops by a third. The real danger is likely to come when numbers drop. The age participation rate may go up, the argument is pretty unconvincing, but in the end the number of students depends on what the Government wants to do.

"The real trouble is that the universities have very little influence left in Whitehall, so even if the argument is sound, it is not going to be listened to.

"Steady state over the next five years is a danger because the only way you can shift is by waiting for people to retire.

"I do foresee a smaller university system as a whole, maybe by 10 or 20 per cent, it is extremely hard to tell, but that could be spread over 15 years."

His committee's eventual recommendation must be either to make provision for some cuts or convincingly argue that there is no need.

At its first meeting earlier this month the committee agreed to send out a series of letters to the schools, boards of study, students unions, trades unions, individuals and "respectable" newspapers. They are open-ended letters of inquiry asking for comments and pointing out the terms of reference. He hopes to visit every institution himself, but members of his committee will not be visiting their own schools.

Does he see the committee eventually coming up with a UGC-type Russian studies exercise? He says simply: "One may well have to. Obviously rationalization has to be possible."

And will there be redundancies? "If you assume the basic problem is the decline in the number of 18-year-olds and that London has to take its fair share of the decline, I think that over a 15-year period there will be quite a lot of natural wastage.

"I hope it will merely be a question of natural wastage. My guess is that if London has a coherent plan it may be less squeezed than it would if it had no plan."

The committee will not concern itself with constitutional change.

"It is sufficiently clear that we remit is to preserve the academic excellence of the university and save money in the long term. It is easy it will be to reconcile these two is not clear. But considerable changes are not apt to succeed.

"It is no good looking at federal university and then dissolve it and have four universities. That is not a possible."

He has not ruled out merger. He is willing to listen to people's point of view. One of his first courses will be to compile a "shopping list" of possible courses of action.

His obvious eagerness to avoid widespread comment will not please some. But he knows that there is no way to say anything meaningful a report cannot be one of unalloyed joy.

He said: "If there is disorder in the streets it will be the same sort of thing that greeted Flower."

Ngaio Crequer



Austerity mixed with regained excellence

Peter Scott continues his series on China with a visit to Qinghua, one of the leading technological universities

Qinghua University in the northern suburbs of Peking is one of China's leading technological universities and as such especially likely to have its further development favoured by a government committed to the "four modernizations", prominent among which is the modernization of science and technology.

The university has a long history. It was founded in 1911 as a preparatory school for American colleges, was reorganized as the National Qinghua University in 1928, with five separate schools (arts, sciences, engineering, law, and agriculture), and in 1952, after the revolution was again reorganized as a socialist university of science and engineering. Many of China's leading scientists and technologists studied or taught at Qinghua.

But the university now faces formidable problems of reconstruction after the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s. Mr San Je Gong, vice-president in charge of teaching, admitted that the quality of the teaching staff, especially of its younger members, caused concern.

Although Qinghua has a teaching faculty of 3,000 for only 6,000 undergraduate students (soon to be increased to 10,000), many of these nominal staff members were through tertiary education at the time of the Cultural Revolution. Qinghua was closed for three years and although less disrupted than much of higher education, the legacy of underprepared lecturers is still with it, and the pressure on senior and experienced staff consequently increased.

Mr San also admits that striking the right balance in the curriculum is difficult. There was great difficulty in training good quality engineers who needed both sound theoretical grounding and engineering practice, he said. The second year need to achieve for a university campus although Qinghua has one of its own workshops employing 1,000 production.

The problem for Chinese universities is that the new modern, scientific and technological achievements are not sufficiently reflected in universities", Mr San said. Qinghua, for example, had inadequate computing facilities, although it had recently purchased some new equipment from the United States.

The tension between producing the well-rounded engineer relevant to the needs of China's developing economy and producing the specialist up to date with scientific and technological developments in his field in the developed countries is clearly felt at Qinghua. Possible clues to the present drift of policy are the recent decision to add a new department—management engineering—to the existing 13 and Mr San's comment that the basic courses taken by all students in their first three years needed to to be widened to provide a more solid foundation for later study.

Qinghua, which before the Cultural Revolution was recognized as producing science and engineering graduates of as high a quality as those in the United States, is fully committed to producing high-quality graduates once more. But this has to be set in the context of China's political and social goals.

All students have to take courses in Chinese modern history Marxist philosophy, and political economy, as well as a foreign language (English is the most popular but German, Japanese, Russian are also available, with French far behind). Their immediate careers on graduation are decided by the state planning authorities.

Although the pattern of subjects and the number of students in each department is decided by the Ministry of Education according to detailed manpower plans, individual student choice is relatively free. The most popular subjects at Qinghua are electronics, computing, and automation and more students choose engineering than science.

The university has 13 departments: civil engineering and architecture, hydraulic engineering, mechanical engineering, precision instrumentation, thermal engineering, electric power engineering, radio electronics, computer engineering and science, automation, engineering physics, chemical engineering and engineering mechanics. It offers 43 specialities within these departments and its research strengths include nuclear power.

Qinghua was deeply affected by the Cultural Revolution. In addition to the inevitable closure of the university, the length of course has oscillated, from six years before 1966, to three and a half in its immediate aftermath, and now back to five. Today 6,000 students are enrolled but they only cover the first three years and the target is for 10,000. This includes 70 foreign students from 23 countries. In addition there are 600 post graduates a number which is also planned to increase. They study initially for two years and if their progress is good enough continue for a further two. When this planned expansion is complete and the scars of the Cultural Revolution have fully healed, the effective staff student ratio comes to 1:6.

Another change since the Cultural Revolution is the rising proportion of students coming straight from secondary school. In 1977 80 per cent were workers from factories and only 20 per cent from secondary schools. A year later the proportions had reversed. Mr San expects this 80:20 ratio (non school leavers and mature students to remain constant as school leavers tend to do better in the university entrance examination.

A little piece of evidence to support the view that Qinghua, like all Chinese universities, is moving away from extreme bias against the children of professional and intellectual families—as the ubiquitous "Gang of Four" decreed—is the fact that only a small proportion of the university's students receive a apply for the Government grant of 33 yuan a month (accommodation is free, meals are not, and there is no tuition fee). But Mr San emphasized that going to university in China is cheap compared with going to university in the developed world.

All students live in the 500 acre campus in spartan residences five or more to a room. But efforts to encourage more students to live off campus to make room for extra students (residential accommodation is the main constraint on growth) were opposed by students although between 20 and 30 per cent live in Peking. They found transport difficult, discovered it was difficult to work properly at home, and did not enjoy such good and frequent contact with the teachers—who also live on campus.

The campus resembles a small self-contained town. The main, faintly Stalinist, building at the end of an impressive tree-lined avenue was put up in 1958 and is eight storeys high. Behind it a warren of streets with university factories, laboratories, student residences and small dirt playing fields. And in this very Chinese environment are the original college buildings, clearly derived from Jefferson's University of Virginia and dominated by a classical rotunda which serves as the university's auditorium.

The standard of equipment is difficult to gauge. As a result university Qinghua should be well equipped by Chinese standards with computing facilities appearing primitive (although most of it has been designed and built within the university which perhaps helps explain its Heath Robinson appearance). But the library has only two million books and journals. One thousand five hundred research staff and technicians are in search in Qinghua's nine research institutes.

To a European the academic quality of Qinghua is difficult to assess. As a result of austerity and excellence. courses are tough; assessment is fierce (termly examinations are held for every major subject); but the drop-out rate of 3 per cent is very low, which is witness to the quality of the students.

Qinghua is clearly an elite university by Chinese standards. It is one of the 89 "key" universities and one of the 26 directly answerable to the ministry of education.

However, it is wrong to imagine that Qinghua is moving away from a close relationship with production industry or favouring the development of the intellectual and professional classes. Its many links with factories, experimental workshops, and commitment of its staff to research into real problems of production problems disprove this thesis.

Qinghua like many other higher education institutions in China retreated a long way from the ideal of egalitarian and philistine life of the Cultural Revolution. This has meant putting at risk its established excellence which was the envy of the rest of the world. Its challenge today to academic excellence is not necessarily a repudiation of its socialist commitment.

Rather it is a reinterpretation of that socialist commitment in terms rather more realistic terms of "modernization" of science and industry, and so of the Chinese economy, and ultimately Chinese society, too.

Charlotte Barry describes the struggle for survival by the Institute of Development Studies as spending cuts loom

A Sussex battle with implications for the rest of the world

The Institute for Development Studies at Sussex University is fighting a desperate battle for survival. Recognised as the foremost development studies institution in the world, it faces a massive cutback in its £1m funding from the British Government.

As it stands, the Institute's exceptional record of interdisciplinary research, teaching, technical assistance and impact on policy making is without equal anywhere in the world.

Although the threat of a total grant withdrawal has almost certainly been averted, the IDS is still having to face the prospect of a change in its role and a corresponding drop in its international importance.

As part of its cutbacks in public spending the Conservative Government has told the Institute that unless it can come up with alternatives proposals for funding which will lead to a substantial reduction in the amount coming from Britain's overseas aid programme it will phase out its grant-in-aid by 1986 or earlier.

At the moment IDS receives an annual grant of £1.17m from the Treasury via the Overseas Development Administration which forms 41 per cent of its total budget. Clearly it heavily dependent on government support.

Now a working party of the institute's distinguished governing body is preparing a report containing alternative proposals and a review of the institute's work which will be submitted to the ODA next month.

The Government's proposal to withdraw all or part of its support has left the IDS with the feeling that it has failed to understand or appreciate the institute's role as an international centre for scholars and practitioners and a vital part of the world-wide network of development activities.

The institute's approach is at odds with the Government in that it sees the relationship between developed and developing countries while a vulnerable and imbalanced world economy, deeply gripped by recession and inflation as interdependent, and believes no large distinction should be drawn between them. It also believes that Britain's relationship with developing countries must be seen as a matter of self-interest, not charity.

"The idea of a Third World which is aided and helped out of poverty and misery is not valid because there are very serious problems in the First World, and Britain is an example of that," emphasizes Carlos Fortin, a Chilean-born political scientist who is deputy director of IDS.

"The good old notion that all we have to do is get some experts in the tropics and then decide how you hand out aid is obsolete and overcome by events. Aid should be regarded as a much larger package of actions and of policies concerning trade, financial flows and flows of raw materials."

Significantly, this global perspective, in which the distinction between domestic and international issues is seen to be artificial, is favoured by the recently-published Brandt report which emphasizes the interdependence of the international economy.

Staff are also heavily involved in policy work on problems of particular countries, such as the Parliamentary select committee on overseas development which evaluated British aid to India and the international team sent by the Commonwealth Secretariat last May to report on the international rehabilitation of Uganda.

The institute has also been influential in defining the broad parameters of the approach of the British Government to aid, for instance, the setting up of rural development programmes.

In a more informal sense, the IDS has had an impact on the way people in the Third World, both in governments and outside, look at other issues.

Since the threat to the future of the institute became public, messages of support have been flooding in from all over the world. A concerned letter from the World Bank, which has leaned heavily on the institute for both research and technical assistance, informed it of plans to set up an American institute of development studies at the University of Notre Dame which will use the IDS as a paradigm.

"While members of the staff of IDS are quite rightly self-critical, you should know that there is unbounded admiration for its work in the community of concerned scholars and practitioners", the letter says.

Nearer home, the institute has the strong support of Mr Edward Heath, who was a member of the Brandt Commission and has written to the foreign secretary, Lord Carrington asking him to prevent "the destruction of an important and distinctive national institution."

The institute now faces the problem of finding a way of reducing its cost to the Government while at the same time retaining its reputation as a body of major international standing.

An immediate programme of priority and economy has been implemented, and the institute's long-term priorities for research and other activities are being reviewed. Four main areas are being considered for IDS work in the next quinquennium: international recession and the emerging world economy of the 1980s; Britain/EEC and the Third World—interactions and policy; the crisis of development policy: strategies in the new decade; rural development and poverty-mechanisms, institutions and policy.

The threat to the library, recently evaluated as one of the most comprehensive collections of contemporary development material in Europe, is very real, as it costs an annual £250,000. The institute's directors feel there is no way they can raise the money privately.

"No one in the institute would pretend that these changes are easy or welcome, but morale is strong and we are determined not to allow our deep involvement in international development and research simply to be cast aside", Professor Richard Jolly, the director of IDS, writes in the published annual report.

"Moreover, as a national institute, having to make these changes at a time when many smaller and less well-financed sister institutions in Britain are also under pressure, we must respond to these financial difficulties in ways which are mutually supportive and creative, not simply finance-driven."



Herr Brandt (top) and Mr Heath, advocates of a fuller partnership between north and south.

After the pool-capping of December, it's time for a mopping-up operation

Paul Flather reports on how the polytechnics are faring in the wake of an apparently erratic DES policy on cuts and mergers

The cries of "foul", "rough play" and "crude stuff", which have been reverberating through the corridors and committee rooms of polytechnics and colleges since last December have, it seems, been heard.

A Department of Education and Science working party has outlined a new three-point plan aimed at clearing up the debris left in the wake of its decision to limit in advance the size of the APE pool, which provides the bulk of the £400m spent annually on public sector higher education.

So crude and hurried was last year's decision to "cap the pool" that many polytechnics and colleges had great difficulty in even understanding the system, before facing the tougher task of deciding where the cuts would fall.

The greatest confusion undoubtedly came in Liverpool, where a serious "mis-reading" of the figures led the city council's education officers to call for site valuations of all its institutions of higher education.

But while educationists were arguing the case for and against actually selling off a site, it was discovered that the authority had mistakenly allowed for wage increases, expected through the Clegg comparability study. The amount to be cut was reduced from 13 per cent (£1.87m) to 7 per cent. "The whole affair was like a dump squib", said Mr Brian Cane, principal of the City of Liverpool College of Higher Education, one college which had been put under threat.

The DES in fact made separate provision for the Clegg increases. But Liverpool is trying to sort out of the confusion that followed the early discussions on cuts and mergers. With the political composition of the city council finely balanced, it seems the final decision on how the cuts will fall will probably be delayed until after the local elections in May.

Leeds Polytechnic is also delaying its allocation of cuts, "We have a minority council in power, and we are hoping that after the May elections, the position will change to our advantage", said a polytechnic spokesman.

North-East London Polytechnic (NELP) laboured under similar confusion for some months. The director, Dr George Brosan, says he twice received letters from the Department of Education and Science revising the amount to be cut upwards, in one instance by more than £500,000.

Indeed, some colleges even received more than they had originally asked for from the central APE pool, even though overall the pool had been reduced by £41m.

The final allocation of money was based on two different elements: 50 per cent derived from a college's budget estimate for 1980-81 and 50 per cent derived from a college's past spending in 1978-79. If between 1978 and 1980 a college had rapidly contracted its teacher-training sector, not an unusual step, it could still expect to receive half of its spending on teacher training in 1979, even though by 1980 it had no sector to spend the money on. This anomaly produced more than £2m worth of discrepancies.

But the main criticisms were aimed at the way individual polytechnics and colleges were left at the mercy of their local education authorities. Mr Peter Flowerday, secretary of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said: "Polytechnics had to suffer under the influence of utterly local events and decisions over which they had absolutely no control."

The system worked out unfairly on three different levels: depending on the policies of the l.e.a., colleges may or may not have been forced, or advised, to prune their original estimate for 1980-81 before sending it up to the DES; the range of financial support offered by l.e.a.s to make up the "capping of the pool" varied greatly; l.e.a.s have hemmed in by the value of their penny rate, the total amount they can raise in rates for each 1p increase, and this varies from almost £2m in Birmingham to £262,000 in Kingston.

All these reasons combined to leave some polytechnics facing massive cuts: for example NELP (15 per cent) or Kingston (11 per cent), or small cuts, Sheffield (2 per cent) and the five ILEA polytechnics (about two per cent).

Dr Alan Matterson, deputy director of Kingston Polytechnic, described the system as "crude and grossly unjust". He said: "Frankly we feel we have been one of the worst affected. We were asked to prune our budget estimate in advance, which we did. We are funded by an l.e.a. that has given us very little backing and mistakenly allowed for wage increases, expected through the Clegg comparability study. The amount to be cut was reduced from 13 per cent (£1.87m) to 7 per cent. "The whole affair was like a dump squib", said Mr Brian Cane, principal of the City of Liverpool College of Higher Education, one college which had been put under threat.

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All these reasons combined to leave some polytechnics facing

But with cuts clearly set to continue over the next few years, the real battle will come over resolving redundancies. No polytechnic has so far announced compulsory redundancies. There was talk of wholesale redundancies at Sheffield Polytechnic, which though experiencing a small cut, has been run on a tight stand-still budget for some years now. But this was ruled out by Councillor Peter Horton, chairman of the city council's education committee. Bristol has also put off any compulsory redundancies. "But with more cuts coming up, we will have to reconsider the matter again next year", said a polytechnic spokesman.

Mrs Jean Boocock, higher education assistant secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Higher and Further Education, has been touring the country reassuring staff about the cuts. "Next year we will be in a very much more difficult situation. Polytechnics have pruned almost all they can in the way of equipment and administration", she says.

The response has varied across the country. Many polytechnics have been forced to close some of their sites. Middlesex Polytechnic expects to save £36,000 by abandoning finally its College of Art at Crouch End, Hornsey, scene of the first major student protests and occupation in 1968 in Britain, and its short course management centre at Capel House. Sheffield is abandoning its beautiful, but highly uneconomic, stately manor at Woodhouse Wentworth, near Rotherham.

Books, equipment, all building programmes, heating, and health and safety plans have been hit. But only a few colleges have gone the way of NELP and opted for possible wholesale reductions in the courses offered. Nevertheless, polytechnics are feeling the pinch; they are also being encouraged by the Government to fulfil their task to help the community in providing vocational training.

It is what sort of pressure, as well as the awareness that polytechnics will now have to specialize further to maintain student levels, that has led Dr Brosan to consider closing down the sociology department at NELP.

Last year some polytechnics were fighting to gain charter status. Now they are busy trying to stay in business.

Spaceship earth: are we on the right course, or are we just sabotaging our own craft?

On July 9 1965 Adlai Stevenson used these words in a speech before the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in Geneva: "We travel together, passengers on a little spaceship, dependent on its vulnerable reserves of air and soil, committed for our safety to its security and peace, preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and, I will say, the love we give our fragile craft."

This note of exultation runs through much of the environmentalist rhetoric of the 1960s. It was American intellectuals of the calibre of Stevenson, Rachel Carson and Kenneth Boulding (by birth an Englishman), who gave the movement its early momentum and prestige. Clearly they made it a political thrust rather than an intellectual challenge. As early as 1962 President Kennedy's annual message to the Congress contained references to environment. The country of Thoreau, George Perkins, Marsh, Aldo Leopold and Steinbeck moved the world towards a new political concern for environment. Stevenson's much-quoted words sum up its content. The movement's roots were certainly scholarly and moral; but the intent was political.

As we know to our cost, the exalted tone soon faded and strident jeering took over. Many scientists began to overstate their case in the hope that chest-beating would succeed where reserain had failed. Eric Ashby (1978) calls this effort "ignition" or the "excitation of the public conscience". He contrasts the sober SCEP report of 1970 which tried to give the public an accurate, dispassionate account of environmental issues, with the more widely read "A Blueprint for Survival" (*The Ecologist*, 1972). The latter polemic was written in Britain, and was signed by many respected figures. Yet, in Ashby's view, the "Blueprint" was a travesty of the authoritative and impressive SCEP report . . . it rang the doomsday bell with frantic vigour . . . on practically every page there were assertions repugnant to the rational reader; plunges into naive fallacies; innuendos; patently incorrect assertions; and statements unsupported by published and accepted evidence." Lord Ashby's interventions are in the debate in the Lords must be very diverting!

I should hate to leave you with the impression that the more flamboyant environmental gestures were exclusively British. Listen to these fragments from a ten-year old paper by a noted American author, which I described as a pretty grim scenario into which we were already "a long way" launched: "The end of the ocean came late in the summer of 1979, he wrote. There had been the final gasp of the whaling industry in 1973 . . . By 1977 the annual yield of fish from the sea was down to 30 million metric tons. . . . By September 1979 all important animal life in the sea was extinct. Japan and China were faced with widespread starvation from a total loss of the seafood on which they were so dependent."

The remarkable thing about this apocalyptic vision is not that it was so wrong, but that it was written with great passion by a distinguished American who had made and continues to make major contributions to the solar science that Ashby admires. The environmentalist movement has captured, and occasionally intoxicated, a number of first-class minds.

Our concept of the environment has actually been very different from that of the environmentalist movement.

Geographers have stood a little apart from this excitement. But among our number there were a few, like Dudley Stamp, who participated the concerns of the new movement. The man-environment theme is one of our oldest and most vital traditions. *The Geographical Journal*, and its predecessors, have never been free from it. Our research has in one sense been valuable. We have not written any of the great books of the past two decades. But neither have we written much clap-trap. Avoiding error by silence is not very glorious, but it is better than failure in loquacity.



In the first of four lectures this year to mark the 150th anniversary of the Royal Geographical Society, Professor F. Kenneth Hare spoke of environmental issues on a planetary scale. Today we print an abbreviated version of the lecture, and will be publishing parts of the other three in the coming weeks

Our concept of environment has actually been very different from that of the environmentalist movement. The latter stresses pollution and the effect of heavy industry on human health and ecological protection. It sees environment through the spectacles of the applied ecologist and engineer. The geographer has traditionally used the term more broadly. Typically we include the mappable, spatially extensive elements like vegetation, soils, climate and geomorphology. Such a view is not complete, nor is it rational. Trees are in, but soil microorganisms are out, because we can see the trees, but not the microbes. At least, however, the geographer sees things within a spatially real framework. Land and its attributes are vital to him as environmental elements. And so is the legitimate, necessary use of natural resources, which are part of the profession's environmental package.

In two major parts of the field geographers have made significant contributions. One of these has been environmental perception and hazard assessment, tracing back for the most part to the early initiatives of Gilbert White and the Chicago school, but also owing much to the younger geographers of this country. This work has influenced environmental impact assessment, an outstanding safeguard against ill-considered intervention from legislation and regulation. The other has been in the area of unified physical and biogeographic research, long characteristic of Soviet geography, where the beneficial transformation of nature has been a central purpose of the discipline. The work of A. V. Grove, Andrew Warren, Anders Rapp, Jack Mabbutt and others on the arid landscapes has typified the approach: an extension of geomorphology and biogeography into a comprehensive analysis of the man-modified environment.

One has to admit, nevertheless, that geographers as a group have not taken the lead in the interdisciplinary study of the human environment. More often it has been the engineers and the ecologists that have done so, while lawyers, economists and political scientists sometimes joining in. The planning world, much stronger in Europe than elsewhere, has increasingly tended to concern itself with environmental design. So a field in which we might collectively have taken a lead has tended to be dominated by others. Individually, however, many geographers have moved into dominant roles in environmental affairs both national and international. One thinks, for example, of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) of the International Council of Scientific Unions. Its president is Gilbert White, who may well have done more to clarify environmental and resource issues than any other living person.

As my title suggests, it is with the planetary scale of environmental issues that I am concerned in this lecture (at the request of the organizers of the series). Such issues tended to arise first on the purely local scale. Smoky chimneys, the devastation of a landscape by mining, and the contamination of drinking water are all of this sort. Public awareness has increasingly come to focus on stresses that are literally world-wide, in which the habitability of the entire planet may be at stake. There has been some retreat from the apprehensiveness of Stevenson's address, with its references to "vulnerable resources" and to the earth's fragility. Close study has shown that the natural system is more robust than we give it credit for. Nevertheless, genuine planetary or at least widespread stresses have become obvious, and pose real problems for future management.

Who could not be moved by the attack on birth control by Mother Teresa when she received the Nobel prize?

The largest question remains that of the carrying capacity of the earth. What human population can it sustain? Are we nearing that limit?

Every previous attempt to answer this question—and there have been many—has been found wanting by the critics; and the critics have in turn been found wanting by new generations of critics. Detractors of Malthus, usually economists, by their own excesses breed Malthusians. Yet speculation continues—and must continue, because controversies of policy and morality arise from it. Who could not be moved by the attack on birth control spoken by Mother Teresa when she received the Nobel Peace Prize in December? She feeds the starving children of Calcutta, yet accepts her church's view that artificial control of population increase is unacceptable. Such dilemmas abound if one admits that morality enters into such questions.

The proper use of land has been another of geography's persistent themes. Its most recent and effective spokesman was the former president of this society and of the International Geographical Union Sir Dudley Stamp. His book, *The Land of Britain: Its Use and Misuse*, the culmination of 20 years of survey and research, was followed by an attempt to extend such survey to the land resources of the world. He represented this country at the United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources, held at Lake Success, New York, in 1949. In 1950 he delivered the Patten Foundation lectures at Indiana University, and published them in 1952 under the title *Land for Tomorrow*. In them he assessed the adequacy of the world's land to support future population. To the question of carrying capacity, he replied: "To this there is no answer: the unknown factors are too numerous", and this is still valid.

He accepted for 1950 a world population of 2,350 million. He was much influenced by what he called a "startling forecast", due to Julian Huxley in 1950 that world population might exceed 3,000 million by the year 2000. He showed that at any rate of increase then thought probable (1·2 per cent per annum or *less*), Huxley's forecast was inevitably true. Accordingly he set about looking at the capacity of *existing* productive land to support people at 1950 levels of potential productivity. He concluded that such land would support at least 3,000 million people. If lands unused or indequately used in 1950 could be brought into production on the same basis, the world's capacity to feed people would climb to over 10,000 million.

Stamp and Huxley have wearied better than the doomsayers of 1970. But they were still overtaken by events. In the following 30 years, as infant mortality declined and food supply little more than kept pace, the population growth rate climbed to 2.0 per cent, and briefly exceeded it. As we begin the 1980s the world already has 4,300 million people, though the rate of increase is slowly subsiding. By the year 2000 world population is likely to be double Huxley's forecast; if we are not overtaken by events. For many years we have been reconciled to the notion that population in the 21st century must greatly exceed 10,000 million before it stabilizes. Stamp's last conclusion is hence most reassuring. If valid.

Another wave of neo-Malthusian pessimism swept the world in the 1970s, as an integral part of the environmentalist movement. It was led, among others, by ecologists who thought that pollution would reduce crop yields—a view again current in North America, where fears are widespread that acid rain will hinder crop growth. Climatologists like Reid Bryson and Hubert Lamb suggested that deteriorating climate, possibly due to human factors, would similarly threaten food supply. Extreme weather in many parts of the world gave credence to such views. 1972, in particular, produced extraordinary anomalies in many areas, notably the Soviet Union and Sahelian Africa, where the great drought of 1968-73 was at its climax. Off the Peruvian coast the anchoveta fisheries, crucial for world animal protein, failed because, in part, of a strong, climatically induced el Niño (the failure of cold upwelling in the Humboldt current). These aberrations came as an utter surprise to the world's commodity dealers and producers who were used to a climate of the past. The most influential spokesman of the new pessimism was the United States crop economist, Lester Brown, whose gloomy predictions attracted world-wide. It was his view that many parts of the food system were already stretched to the limit.

The gloom proved premature (though perhaps not wrong in the longer term). Crops improved, as soya bean replaced the ancient cowpea which it has not yet recovered, and climate does not seem to have changed. What the early 1970s did, however, was to turn world attention to the vulnerability of the food system. The agony in Sahelian Africa and the chaotic inflation of prices combined to arouse attention. The United Nations Food Conference came and went. The United States foundation-led green revolution was re-examined as to strategy and effectiveness. During the late years of the decade the USA returned to the grain trade, but complacency it was not. Perhaps most useful of all was the debate about world food supply and demand ceased to be the exclusive concern of agricultural scientists and economists. Food, like health, is too important to be left to the professionals. And so, are the right professionals, in any case?

In the mid-seventies that remarkable American polymath, Ray Revelle, returned to the problem attempted by Stamp. Like Stamp he tried to synthesize a public opinion on the world's carrying capacity. Unlike Stamp, however, he had knowledge of the extraordinary surge in technical skills that had occurred in the developed countries since 1950, which Stamp hoped for but did not foresee. Advances in crop genetics, especially in such crops as corn (corn hybrids), wheat and rice, had been extraordinary. There has been a revolution in fertilizer use, irrigation and pesticide application. After weighing these advances and the threats to them now visible, Revelle asked what would happen if they could be applied to all the world's potentially useful land. He found that the world could provide a total of 4,250 million hectares of very unequally divided between the continents.

Whatever happens, a large increase in crop hectarage and food production will be needed.

In effect, Revelle proposed to do with the technology potentially available, the hectarage presently under the plough extended on every continent (though only marginally so in Asia). If such advances could be achieved the world might feed nearly 40,000 million people at a level of 2,500 kcal per day, and still leave space for fibre cultivation and grazing livestock. Even the Vatican can scarcely expect so many people.

The lessons to be drawn from the fate of Stamp's forecast—and that may happen to Revelle's—are several: first, that the earth's carrying capacity is a meaningless concept unless one can predict the future course of technology—in such matters, for example, as breakthroughs in water cultivation, self-nitrogenizing cereals, and the enormous potential of gene-splicing. Second, that the food system, gigantic though it is, is still only one cog on mankind's economic wheel, which must also somehow mesh environmental and economic constraints. What, for example, are the implications for food supply and demand of the present disturbances in energy supply? Are they any more controllable and predictable than mankind's reproductive performance? Whatever happens, a large increase in crop hectarage and food production will be needed if the world is to come near to peace and security. In Table 1 I reproduce from International Food Policy Research Institute studies a recent estimate of the deficiency in food staples expected for the developing market economies, which by 1990 will contain almost 3,000 million people. If these needs are to be met, exports of grain from existing advanced countries to these

Continued on facing page

Along the margins of the food-producing world a serious impoverishment is in progress.

The surprising inference that emerges is that the Americas, Australasia, and not the highly mechanized Saharan fringe, have most populations at risk; and the Americas have much the largest area of deteriorating land. Of the areas that yields affected according to Dregne in 1977, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia compete with Mexico and the United States for supremacy as the areas of recent desertification exist in the advanced countries. When I call such conditions desertification or soil erosion, my friends among the pastoralists in those wealthy states are astonished. To them they are the natural behaviour of land. Dregne's map shows the opinions of professional agronomists, soil surveyors and rangeland management specialists. It is they, and not the geographers who put the right name on the condition.

Discounting the imperfections of the statistics, one is thus brought to believe that along the margins of the food-producing world a serious impoverishment is in progress. It acts through a complex interraction between land-use, climate, soil and natural vegetation—in part, the man-influenced ecosystem. It was in this room in 1935 that Stebbing put forward his rediscovery of an ancient myth in 1935, the southward spread of the Sahara. We now know that the process is more akin to a rash or pox that afflicts huge areas of badly-used land. We know that the exhaustion of food for animals and firewood for people is one of the proximate symptoms. We know that deflation of fine materials by the wind is an ancient geomorphic process that is accelerated rather than created by present-day land misuse. But the aggregate effect is, as Stebbing inferred, an increase in the area of land whose productivity is too low for human use.

At the other extreme the humid forest and grassland soils that support the world's crop production show evidence of another pernicious effect: the slow depletion of soil carbon, and with it the capacity of soils to hold nutrients. In the old countries of north-west Europe some sort of equilibrium has been struck in this matter; soils that have been cultivated for centuries, or even millennia, are now among the world's largest producers of crops. I do not know whether the fertilizer boom of the past few decades, and the widespread abandonment of rotation ploughing, have disturbed this equilibrium. In the United Kingdom I find it difficult to be alarmed about a decline in soil fertility, or about soil erosion. I was born on flint-strewn arable land on Salisbury Plain, not far from Windmill Hill, where after several millennia of use the thin, brashy soils have lost much of their substance, yet perform well. It is all otherwise in the newer cereal growing countries, including Canada, where we know that we have been mining soil humus. And it may be all otherwise with the shifting plantation agriculture of the humid tropical world.

Here again there is no effective monitoring system to give us an objective answer. The most thorough analysis I know is that of Buringh of the Agricultural University of the Netherlands at Wageningen. The most staggering of his estimates is that the present rate of oxidation of soil carbon, and consequent transfer as carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, is most realistically 4.6 Gt a^{-1}. This is almost as much as the 5.0 Gt a^{-1} believed to come from the burning of fossil fuels. Buringh's figure implies the oxidation of about 1 per cent of all remaining soil carbon in three years, or about 3 per cent per decade—which happens also to be the measured rate of build-up of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Most of the losses are due to the conversion of forest or grassland to cropland, a process that eventually leads to a one-third reduction of stored carbon.

If only partially true, these figures imply that the deterioration of the world's useful soils is still rapid and may be accelerating. All the warnings, and all the countermeasures taken, have failed to halt a process that was widely feared even when I was an undergraduate, 40 years ago—and which has been in progress since Neolithic times.

Both processes—desertification and soil deterioration—imply that the large increase in cultivated hectarage necessary to feed future generations will be difficult, damaging and possibly a failure. But both may in part be illusory. We simply do not have accurate enough information about land use and the state of ecosystems to be dogmatic. These gaps were visible to Stamp, and he tried to fill them. He did not succeed.

Discussions of the carrying capacity of the earth are thus no more meaningful than they were in Stamp's day, unless we can predict the political and technological future. Revelle's analysis projects existing technology forward, and assumes that mankind will act rationally and cooperatively in its effort to feed the new multitudes—and thereby become a world-wide town. If these assumptions are met, then his calculated carrying capacity exceeds all forecasts of world population well into the next century.

Limitations on future food supply are in sober reality likely to arise from political disturbances, especially as regards trade, energy supply and the provision of capital, and perhaps from environmental constraints. The latter may include our inability to control land desertification, and to avoid the climatic consequences of our economic expansion. The extension of agriculture called for by Stamp and Revelle will be across land that is already impoverished.

I have left pollution to the end, partly because I object to the pride of place usually given to it, and partly because truly planetary problems are few in number, and as yet little perceived by society. It has been the experts, not the ordinary citizens, who have tolled the doomsday bell in this context. I propose to confine myself here to those pollutants that may conceivably alter the earth's habitability. Those that are now widely discussed include the radionuclides, notably carbon-14 and tritium; the halogenated hydrocarbons accumulating in the oceans; the halocarbons, and their impact on the earth's ultraviolet irradiance; and carbon dioxide. I shall set aside the radionuclides, because I regard them, I hope correctly, as minor threats. I know little about the oceans. So I shall concentrate on the airborne cases—the halocarbons and carbon dioxide.

The implied climatic changes are larger than any observed in the past 10,000 years of terrestrial history.

Most airborne pollutants have short lives, since they are washed out by rains, or fall out spontaneously. They cause local, or at most regional problems, such as the acid rain effects of the northern hemisphere's industrialized regions. World-wide mixing by the wind systems takes from six months to two years. Hence it is only the insoluble gases that achieve truly global diffusion. There are many of these, and though they may be present in concentrations as low as parts per million million, we now possess instrumentation capable of detecting them. Sulphur hexafluoride, SF_6, is a good example. Released from electrical switches in the industrialized countries, chiefly in the northern hemisphere, it is readily detectable in the stratosphere over the Antarctic continent.

I shall not linger long over the halocarbons. The suggestion that some of them—specifically the spray-can or refrigerant fluorocarbons—might diffuse into the stratosphere world-wide was considered much in 1974, and by innumerable later observations. Molina and Rowland (1974) showed that the chlorine in the molecules would be released by photodissociation in the stratosphere, and that free chlorine so created would catalytically destroy ozone, itself created by solar radiation. Ozone is the main shield of the earth's surface against the harder and more damaging kinds of ultraviolet radiation. The suggestion ignited public attention, to use Ashby's term, because of the threat of increased skin cancer, the most evocative word in the vocabulary of environmental health.

Subsequently there have been major efforts to test the hypothesis, both by direct observation and by mathematical modelling of the processes involved. The United States, this country, Australia, France and Canada have all participated. The immensely complex stratospheric chemistry has been widely explored and enlarged. We discover new reactions and get new kinetic constants almost monthly. The effect is thought real by most investigators, though United States studies tend to come up with larger impacts than those of the United Kingdom (an almost universal rule of environmental science, because United Kingdom investigators choose more conservative boundary conditions). This most recent United States National Academy of Sciences Study, chaired by H. S. Schiff in 1979, predicts that continued production and use of the fluorocarbons at 1977 levels will eventually reduce total ozone concentrations by 16.5 per cent, a substantially more pessimistic figure than originally calculated. Since the halocarbons are often active infrared absorbers, moreover, and since radioactive absorption by ozone is largely responsible for the warmth of the middle and upper stratosphere, their continued use may well have climatic as well as health effects. My own view is that the halocarbon issue is real, and needs close attention, especially if monitoring confirms the predictions of theoretical modelling, as it has not yet done.

Looming much larger in my own mind, and in that of most ecologists and climatologists, is the disturbance of the natural carbon cycle now in progress. The halocarbons in the atmosphere proceed from known sources to known sinks. Carbon, however, is exchanged in cyclical fashion between vast natural reservoirs, as one of the biogeochemical cycles that play so large a rôle in ecosystem functions.

That the carbon cycle is perturbed is obvious from one of the few hard, observational facts about the planetary environment: the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide content. Its present volumetric mixing ratio (mole fraction) is 335 ppm C increasing at about 1.4 ppm a $^{-1}$C. These figures are equivalent to an atmospheric store of about 712 gigatonnes C, increasing at roughly three per cent per decade. The same ratio probably stood below 290 ppm in the mid-nineteenth century. A doubling within the 21st century is likely, if world economic expansion continues.

The primary source of the added carbon in the atmosphere, currently 2.3 gigatonnes C a^{-1}—is believed to be the 5.0 gigatonnes C a^{-1} of fossil fuel carbon being released by mankind. As we have seen, however, net transfers to the atmosphere have been identified from the soil of 4.6 gigatonnes C a^{-1} (Buringh, 1979). Additions from forest clearance have been estimated at 2 to 8 gigatonnes C a^{-1} by Woodwell and others in 1978. The large excess of carbon over accumulation in the atmosphere has been assumed to be transferred to storage in the deep oceans. Leading authorities such as Revelle and Munk in 1977 and Bolin in 1979, doubt whether so large a transfer is feasible. In short, the study of the carbon cycle is in disarray. Only the continuing build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the burning of fossil fuels are beyond question.

If the build-up continues, and a doubling of concentration is achieved (conceivably by 2030, but probably after 2050), major climatic changes must ensue, because of the well-known role of carbon dioxide as an infrared absorber—the so-called greenhouse effect. There have been many attempts to predict the climatic consequences of such a doubling. Manabe and Wetherald in 1975 found an average increase of about 2 deg K up to 40°N, increasing to over 10 deg K near the pole. Mason in 1979 reports a UK Meteorological Office experiment that gives an average increase of land-surface temperature of only 0.4 deg K (4 deg K near the pole) if sea temperatures remain at present levels, but of 2·7 deg K if sea-temperatures are held at 2 deg K *above* present values. Both simulations indicate significant increases of rainfall. Such changes would, however, be highly uneven, some regions becoming drier and some wetter. The implied climatic changes are larger than any observed in the past 10,000 years of terrestrial history.

I cannot discuss further what has become the most active area of research into climatic change—and the associated socio-economic disturbances that may ensue. I am convinced that this issue is not only real, but the most critical environmental problem of the pollution-related kind, for the following reasons:

- The carbon cycle pervades oceans, atmosphere, biota, soils and bedrock; it cannot be examined in isolation, but needs the simultaneous attention of large teams of scientists.
- It interlocks in the most intricate and direct fashion with the human food and energy systems. Expansion of either or both of these systems, inevitable in the light of the above account, must increasingly perturb the cycle.
- Atmospheric carbon dioxide is a significant control of temperature and rainfall. Its continuing increase must necessarily effect changes of climate, which are the most important question addressed at the recent World Climate Conference. These effects are only crudely or qualitatively predictable at present.
- Changes of climate thus induced will certainly influence the future performance of world agriculture—which in turn must influence atmospheric carbon dioxide burdens.
- Control of rising carbon dioxide concentrations will probably be out of the question, since the rise involves the use of fossil fuels. The present world energy crisis makes the prediction of future carbon releases extremely speculative.

I have tried to show that the two classes of environmental problem—those associated with the legitimate use of resources, especially land, and those that spring from poor industrial or domestic technology, chiefly pollution—actually converge. The latter has had more attention, because of the initial bias of those who created the environmentalist movement. The former have been those to which geographers have usually turned. In practice the two interlock. Both classes contain issues that potentially threaten the habitability of the earth.

Yet I would not like to end on a note of pessimism. Identifying grave problems is not the same thing as crying in before them. None of the issues I have described seems to me likely to lead us into destruction: attrition, conflict and tragedy, perhaps, and huge exercises in political ingenuity and compromise. But I believe, as Stamp did, that we can look forward to many more years on this planet, and that our course is only dangerous, not suicidal.

I base this view not so much on the measures we may take as on the natural resilience of the world of which I have already spoken. I suspect that it can absorb more insults than we can deliver. So far, for example, we cannot detect in the climatic record any remarkable impacts due to human action. City climates have changed a little, but global climate hardly at all, unless I was grievously wrong in my World Climate Conference paper in 1979. The release of about one third of the original soil carbon, and the destruction of half the world's primeval forest since Neolithic times have not plunged us into a climatic convulsion. Somehow the natural systems that we study have adapted to the changes, modulated them and masked them. It may well keep up the good work, though the rapid pace of change foreseen for the next half-century may outdo their versatility.

For the geographer the opportunity to analyse and predict this resilience is a marvellous challenge. Humanity and nature exist in constant interaction. We have understood this crucial point much longer than most of our colleagues, who tend to think in terms of the impact of nature on society, or the reverse. In the past decade it has seemed to me, perhaps over-optimistically, that

I hope that the mood to conserve and protect will ultimately triumph everywhere.

the logic of interaction was gradually taking command over what we teach, and the things that we try to do. The sense that our field was disintegrating has receded. It has a unity rooted in natural logic.

Not for a second do I counsel less vigilance and ardour in our attempt to protect nature, in no way do I apologize for my own sincere if ineffective efforts to do so. I hope that the mood to conserve and to protect will ultimately triumph everywhere. It is not necessary to exaggerate problems to achieve this objective—and even if it is, to do so is not legitimate for the real scientist. If, therefore, I were to follow in Adlai Stevenson's footsteps, and find myself addressing not the Royal Geographical Society, but ECOSOC, I would probably echo his words, ending with these: that we depend for our health, comfort and happiness on the care, the work and the love we give our craft, and on its astonishing inherent vitality.

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Straight from the horse's mouth

There is a large and luxurious mass of publications which are neither wholly connected with academe or politics, says Rodney Barker

No one would ever imagine that a journal of zoology would be written by horses, or a journal of biology by tadpoles. Politics is quite different. A politics journal may be about politics in an academic sense, but the people whom political scientists study are themselves active and articulate and can write just as well as those who study them, and often meet publishers' deadlines more quickly.

There are in consequence two principal kinds of writing in politics journals. First, the uncomplicatedly committed or persuasive, second the fairly uncomplicatedly academic. The consequence of this is that you can't talk of politics journals with the ease and clarity with which you can discuss the journals in other disciplines.

Some journals such as the *Political Quarterly*, deliberately recognize and adopt a hybrid position straddling the middle ground between the two misty poles. There can be a slow fade from one style into the other, and there is little anywhere that is entirely innocent of more than academic intention.

There are clearly academic journals, and journals which are clearly part of politics, but in between is a large and luxuriant mass, most of which is neither wholly one nor the other. Many of the academic students of the subject are committed to political ends or methods, so that in between the biologists and the horses come the vets.

The elder of the two principal political science journals in this country, *Political Studies* has a recognizably British character. It arrived late, in 1953, and that is itself illuminating. There had always been people in Britain writing about what now falls under the aegis of political science. The first editor of *Political Studies*, Sir Ernest Barker, was the author of a series of books and articles on political ideas, the earliest of which were written before the First World War. But though the ingredients were there with Wallas and Laski at LSE, and though politics was being taught in London, Oxford, and Manchester by the outbreak of the Second World War, in 1945 it was still hardly an established subject.

The foundation of the Political Studies Association in 1950, and the publication of its journal, *Political Studies* three years later was part of a late but definite flowering. For nearly 20 years the journal was the only one of its kind, reclining gracefully within pale cream covers with a green tide, and looking rather like a brochure for one of the more genteel but less well-known public schools.

Both its title and its contents revealed a great deal about the academic study of politics in Britain. The term "political studies" was sufficiently loose to include anything that might be done in a field of study, whose ditches and hedges were often modest or absent, where fences were rare and, if he has, one sometimes disappeared before giving way to both smooth slopes and boggy swamps on the way to adjoining pastures.

In the first issue were pieces by Ernest Barker on English political theory, Denis Brogan on American parties, Cole on socialism, D. N. Chester on public corporations and the classification of administrative bodies, J. M. Shaw on Oakeshott's interpretation of Hobbes, and Peter Campbell on the French national assembly.

For a long time *Political Studies* set the tone eclectic, historical with an interest in the history and explication of political philosophy, and the government and politics of particular states and times. It was an eclecticism that reflected that of the profession, a profession where very few departments shared the same title, but enjoyed a profusion of descriptions: Political Theory and Government, Government, Political Studies, Politics.

Yet *Political Studies* was not the first in the field. Of the many concerns which led into political science, one of the earliest was the attempt to develop a science or at least an art of administration and government. *Public Administration* first came out as the *Journal of Public Administration* in 1923, and its editorials, written by the publicist and parliamentarian Sir Charles Ryder, were full of advice on the art of administration, and on parliamentary tactics. Ryder's successor as editor, Gwilym Lloyd George, a Liberal MP, continued in the same vein, and in the first issue to appear after the war, in 1946, it announced in its first issue that its concern was with "the science of public administration" and with "the single aim of efficiency of public services and the efficiency of public servants." It began as the unofficial house journal of administrators, though never closed to others, and has always remained a place where not only have academics written about administration, but administrators, and politicians have themselves reflected on what they were up to.

A place, as it were, for contemplative horses and tadpoles, as well as for plain biologists. The journal has always been the bulwark of public administration as both a study and an art. Its present editor, Nevil Johnson uses the privilege of editorial comment, and since 1967 the journal has reviewed, often sharply and at length, the major events of administrative reform.

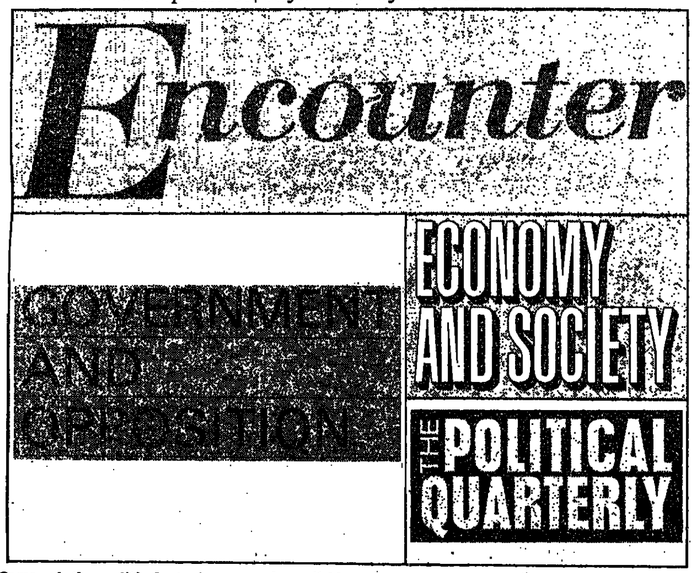
Of the 1968 Fulton report on the civil service, the journal wrote with characteristic sceptical conservatism, that administration "serves not only the efficient attainment of specific objectives, but also, and perhaps more importantly, it helps to preserve modes of behaviour, methods, or governing and a framework in which the dilemmas of choice inherent in a multi-valued society can be resolved in a civilized manner".

Similarly inclined to promote practical improvements in existing institutions and to disseminate their virtues, is *Parliamentary Affairs* which began in 1947, a product of the years when Harold Laski could write that parliamentary democracy was the only alternative to the concentration camp.

Its interest has extended to all states whose systems could loosely be described as parliamentary, and it includes regular short reports upon parliamentary and constitutional development. Its principal interests are in elections and political parties, though the more technical and adventuresome studies of voting have tended not to be published in its pages. It is an indication of the relative smallness of the discipline in the United Kingdom that since 1976 *Parliamentary Affairs* has been edited by F. F. Ridley who had previously edited *Political Studies*.

There is something of a similar commitment, though far more widely interpreted, in *Government and Opposition*, which has been published quarterly since 1965 under the editorship of Shiv Visvesu. While *Public Administration* placed its faith in the art of administration, and *Parliamentary Affairs* in parliamentary institutions, *Government and Opposition* placed its in the conscience of political opposition—"the duty of the responsible critic to the duly appointed representative of the people" as the first issue put it.

It announced in its first issue its concern with "the science of public



Some of the political studies journals available



fare for the liberal right. It not only for them. It *Encounter* that Bernard Crick about Michael Oakeshott academic equivalent of the Python knight's limp chicken Journal with a fierce and suspicion of central power, *Research*, provides an brief of information for interested in an institution has always lain at the centre political scientist's attention.

But there are other whose purpose is different, do not attempt contemporary ment, yet which are commend a general political line, but are also intellectually rigorous, make an important contribute the academic study of politics anyone who is at all concerned Marxist theory, the *New Left view* is essential, even if it is it plays the pre-breakfast to *Encounter's* post-prandial *Economy and Society* and *Class* are equally though less predominantly ed with conventionally topics, and feminist journals as the *Women's Studies*, *national Quarterly* and the *Review* contain important on politics.

A feature of political compared with the natural is its continental, even national ticularity. If the study of did constitute a science, with agreed object of study, even an agreed method of it, then an article from Nice be exchanged for an article Milwaukee with a quick flip of wrist. But there are only two where this even begins to political philosophy, and the planatory theory of politics.

Even here, and particularly the latter case, academic trad can take many form of characteristics, and for many there were those in the Kingdom who regarded *American Political Science Review* as the Trojan horse of behaviouralism. But the areas of study in which one of one kind or another regarded as an important for discussion, the more fatty journals become relevant.

In particular this means Englishlanguage journals and though *European Journal of Political Research* is an international periodical, English language dominantly means American language. Hence the currency of *American Political Science Review*, the *Political Science Quarterly*, specialized journals such as *Administrative Science Quarterly* ("dedicated to advancing the understanding of administrative through empirical investigation and theoretical analysis"), *Daedalus* and the *Journal of the History of Ideas*, or at the engaged and committed levels *Telos* or *Public Choice*, *Kapitalistate*.

You might begin the study politics with relief after the receding mountains of publicat in some other disciplines, parlarly the natural sciences. But there is more to cover than there at first seems. Certainly the journals are only some out quarterly, and keeping an eye on the periodical room is not a major daily but abstracting and indexing begun, and has been necessary for many years. *The International Bibliography of Political Science*, covering books and articles, was first published in 1953, political science streets in quarter sections has been going since 1951, while *Politics Abstracts* includes an abstract of selected articles. As soon as you look at America, publishing science ends. And the peculiar enrichment of the subject arises from the fact which also encompasses the literature of the articulated political practice, actually *do* politics.

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There was a period when the journal followed *Parliamentary Affairs* custom of a record of parliamentary and constitutional developments, with a record of opposition over the previous year. This was not continued, but the tone of the journal was sustained. The weight of the articles has always been descriptive and evaluative, and there has been relatively little interest in explanatory or normative theory.

This was not the case with the most recent of the journals, and the only one to parallel *Political Studies* in its broad coverage of the discipline and its purely academic commitments. The *British Journal of Political Science* began publication in 1971 under the brief editorship of Brian Barry, who was succeeded by Anthony King and, who, in his turn, gave way in 1978 to Ivor Crewe. The journal, as its title suggests and was intended to suggest, has a broad commitment and a more precise and professional discipline.

"Rigour" was a favourite word in those days, rather as "discrimination" once was in literary criticism. But though the journal began with a greater interest in explanatory theory, numbers, and survey data, it neglected neither the older interest nor the older style. Its very second issue contained an article entitled "On being unfair to Rawls, Rousseau and Williams, or John Carver on the incoherence of inequality".

In fact the *British Journal of Political Science*, and *Political Studies* under its present editor, S. E. Finer, have if anything converged, and become more similar. The journal may have a slight edge in variety, but *Political Studies* pays a rather more balanced attention to the politics of unstable situations, and to Marxist theory. *Political Studies* still maintains a senior stance by being the journal which attempts a comprehensive reviewing service of books in political science.

As well as the principal British journals, there are several small specialist periodicals: *Policy and Politics*, which deals with local government, *Local Government Studies*, the *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* and the newly launched *West European Politics*.

I have said nothing about one area of political science that has been generally studied in so separate a manner, that it is hardly a part of political science at all. There is little communication between this area and the main body, and very frequently it is organized in separate university departments. This is international politics, a subject whose very coherent existence some would dispute. Most political science has been devoted to politics within states, not politics between them, and the journals reflect this.

And so *International Affairs* and the *British Journal of International Studies* are out on a limb—though limb is hardly the right word for the consideration of the whole tree in which, as the economic and military ivy around the world grows tighter and longer, individual states are but branches, even twigs.

There are two further characteristics of politics journals and of articles on politics, one of which is shared with other disciplines, the other of which is more particularly a feature of politics. A number of articles of importance to political scientists appear in journals which appear to have other allegiances.

The article which set out the views developed at length in Colin McKenzie in *British Political Parties* was published in *The British Journal of Sociology*; Stefan Collini's discussion of Hobhouse and Bosanquet in the state appeared in the historical journal *Past and Present*, and articles of importance to political scientists appear in *Public Law*, most of the historical journals, and many of the sociological ones, in such periodicals as *Journal of Social Policy* and *Social Policy and Administration*. Politics may be the queen of the sciences, but the system is a feudal one, and there are awful lot of minor baronies and dukedoms doing bits of government on their own patch.

The second characteristic is the one which I mentioned to begin with: Subject and object are inextricably intertwined in politics, and even the journals of the journals are straight journals such as *Parliamentary Affairs*, *Public Administration*, or *Government and Opposition*, have clear and acknowledged standards and preferences. Standing boldly and noisily at the crossroads is the *Political Quarterly*, established in 1930 with something of the intention of recovering the old and mislaid tradition of the review, where the contemporary men of letters would discuss ideas and affairs with both purpose and intelligence, providing something that was both committed and informed.

Its first issue announced its intention to "discuss social and political questions from a progressive point of view", and it opened with contributions from Keynes, Hobson, Cole, Robson, Zimmern, Lowes Dickinson and Kingsley Martin.

Encounter, in a somewhat after-dinner manner, provided a similar

BOOKS

Ignoring Auden's multiplicity of voices

W. H. Auden: the life of a poet
by Charles Osborne
Eyre Methuen, £7.95
ISBN 0 413 39670 3

by Iain Wright

W. H. Auden's will left his would-be biographers in little doubt about his attitude to them—he directed that his friends were to destroy all his letters "and on no account to show them to anybody else"—but he had planted an even blunter message in an introduction to Shakespeare's Sonnets 10 years before. "Most genuine artists", he wrote, "would prefer that no biography be written." If their preference were disregarded by posterity, it would be important "that the biographer and his readers realize that such an account throws no light whatsoever upon the artist's work". This is grumpy old Uncle Wiz being perverse, of course, but Charles Osborne seems to have an equally perverse way of dealing with Auden's advice. He has (rightly) disregarded the first part of it, but he has taken the second all too literally, turning what was meant as an ironic caveat into a directive. He has written a biography which not only throws very little light on the artist's work, but does not even seem much interested in it, and the very few paragraphs of this three-hundred page book which give any indication that Osborne has actually read any of Auden's poems, are extraordinarily banal. *Letters from Iceland*, we discover, is "something far removed from the conventional travel book", while

> It is possible to view "Paid on Both Sides", as it is possible to view most works of art, successful or unsuccessful, as an image of the essential human condition.

The only biography worth writing about Auden would be one which set out to disprove his own dictum, one which set the man against the poems and the poems against the man by rooting itself as much in a sensitive close reading of the texts as in the equally delicate task of fitting together the tantalizingly few pieces of information which we have about Auden's personal life and intellectual development. That would be a peculiarly difficult and peculiarly fascinating task, and Charles Osborne, for me, has stated his own disqualifications for undertaking it as clearly as they could be stated when he writes that to regard the arts as "sheer play" is in no sense to denigrate or undervalue the arts, for play is an essential aspect of life. Today, however, when *the arts are seriously undervalued by being considered as vehicles for the transmission of ideas sociological, philosophical, political and educational*, it may be difficult for the indoctrinated young to comprehend this (my italics).

Who are these sinister "indoctrinated young" who have been pulling the wind up the Literature Director of the Arts Council? We are never told, but I for one would gladly enlist in their ranks if I knew, and I would also like to know how Auden would have reacted to the idea of someone seriously setting out to write a biography of him based on the belief that the arts are not vehicles for the transmission of ideas: Auden was the greatest intellectual frontiersman of his generation, the first truly modern sensibility in English poetry, the first to register in verse the implications of the new psychology and the new politics, dazzlingly and infuriatingly eclectic and chameleonlike; and the biographer who has neither the time nor the inclination to engage with such complexity had best keep well away.

The difficulties—and the satisfactions—which face the serious student of Auden arise not only from the rich diversity of the ideas, sociological, philosophical, political" behind these poems, but from the multiplicity of voices in which they are spoken, the sheer variety and incompatibility of Auden's *personae*. The Auden of one stage of his career disputes confidently with the Auden of another; a bird's-eye view of his Collected Poems (when such a thing is finally published) would reveal the leftist church Auden of the 1940s rudely denouncing the "selfish pink old Liberal" of the mid-1930s who in turn is preoccupied with boxing the ears of the self-obsessed amateur psychoanalyst of the early Berlin days, much of whose writing turns on his scorn for that repressed and guilt-ridden undergraduate, the Oxford Auden . . . and so on.

But this is only the first and easiest level of self-contradictoriness which the adequate biography would help us to unravel. Each of those Audens is in turn a multiple poetic personality, shape-shifter and mask-juggler, who whisks away just when one is certain that one has finally caught him speaking in his own voice. *This* is not the voice which delivers "A Communist to Others" in 1932, nor is he the nose-thumbing public schoolboy of "Get there if you can"; these are roles which he is trying on, in a game of charades which is sometimes pure frivolity, often deadly serious. Auden's chosen title for the collection which his publishers called *New Year Letter* was *The Double Man*, and was taken from a quotation from Montaigne which serves as the book's epigraph:

> We are, I know not how, double in ourselves, so that what we believe we disbelieve, and cannot rid ourselves of what we condemn.

That doubleness is the motive-force of all the work of the 1930s and early 1940s, and it is when it begins to disappear, after *The Age of Anxiety*, that the verse becomes so often tired and inert, and the game of masks only a game.

All the poems and plays of Auden's great period can be read as an extended debate of the Double Man with himself, attempts to adjudicate between a series of antimonies: private self-analysis versus public commitment, Freud versus Marx, Romanticism versus the Enlightenment, poetry as "magic" versus poetry as "parable". Above all, they are a long and intricately cross-knotted exploration of the nature of "Love, a Quest for the" birth of natural order and true love" in a diseased and love-denying world. It is a search which sets out from an idea and ideal of a love without repression derived from the psychoanalytic thought of Homer Lane, and beyond him D. H. Lawrence, and Blake; which elaborates this into a full-scale psychosocial theory in which all social evils, including especially fascism, are expressions of the revenge of the repressed libido, and whose eradication therefore requires a kind of social revolution; "Death of the old gang". It is a search which, as the European crisis deepens and Auden begins to take Marx seriously, discovers its own earlier emphases to be too individualistic, obsessed with private erotic experience.

> Europe grew anxious about her health
> Combines tottered, credits froze,
> And business shivered in a bank-
> er's winter

While we were kissing

and seeks another kind of love, "the disciplined love which alone could have employed these engines", a secular and social force transcending the self-absorption of Eros. It seeks political commitment, but Spain disillusions Auden, and his search leads him to disengagement, first from the anti-Fascist struggle, and then from Europe itself, and into his American exile. Ultimately, in exile, that phase of the Quest (his most personally painful but artistically productive one) ends in the return to Christianity, but a form of Christianity which, sadly and unnecessarily, seems to demand that the poet both repudiate his faith in art's efficacy—

> Art is not life and cannot be
> A midwife to society.
> For art is a *fait accompli*.

and expound the less of faith in rambling, gnomic, ex cathedra verse-sermons, hundreds of lines in length.

Auden's greatest poetry was that of the English Auden. Its true centre was *This Island Now* (the title he had intended for the *Look, Stranger!* collection). Its Quest was embodied in the exploration of a particular landscape, the celebrated *paysage moralisé*.

> And England to our meditations
> seemed
> The perfect setting;
> It is the isolation and the fear,
> The mood itself.

and its contradictory strengths were drawn from the tensions and contradictions of England in the 1930s. Once Auden had cut that root (and failed to find another), the verse itself, for all its intermittent splendours, became disembodied, prolix and without pressure. Certainly, there are still as many *personae*, and they are as varied, but who can feel that much will issue from their chatter, from Squire Auden, the eighteenth-century High Anglican, out-Betjeman-ing Betjeman and out-Muggeridging Muggeridge; Auden the defender of the American invasion of Vietnam, Auden the Old Fogey, the Kierkegaardian Caliban, the terror of Christchurch Common Room?

Osborne's second disqualification for undertaking the task he has set himself is that these are the only Audens he knew or knows. He met Auden late in his career, when the prewar poet had already disappeared beneath half a dozen protective self-caricatures, and he makes no serious attempt to get back to that earlier Auden through the works. This has three deeply damaging results.

First, he fails to see how much real pain and deep seriousness persisted behind the buffoonery. Second, he is far too ready to take the young Auden at the old Auden's self-punishing valuation, and to be taken in by the clowning: "poetry is only a kind of game or cross-word puzzle", poetry and politics don't mix", and so on. (This of course provides Osborne with the ideal justification for his own unwillingness and inability to deal with Auden's early poems as intellectually "serious" and tough-minded works which they are.) Third, the book is given a curiously lopsided look. Even if we were to accept Osborne's very limited notion of what the biography of a great poet might be ("to reveal where Auden was and when and why": Osborne, *THES*, March 14), it is at once apparent that the chapters dealing with Auden's prewar life are oddly lifeless compared to the later chapters when the author at least gets a little human warmth into his story by drawing on personal papers and conversations. But as far as the English Auden is concerned, it is sadly clear that Osborne simply does not know enough, and what he does know is all *déjà connu*.

No doubt it is true that only one of the few writers of his own generation who worked closely with this most private and secretive of poets in the 1930s could really do the job properly, and it doesn't look as if that is going to happen: Christopher Isherwood seems to have said as much as he intends to say, in *Christopher and his Kind*; and Stephen Spender is rumoured to have given up the attempt because he is rattled by Auden's continual attempts to disrupt his efforts from beyond the grave by screwing up Spender's working notes while he is asleep. This is a pity, but what it means is that anyone else who makes the attempt at a biography will have a hard and protracted labour of research before them to compensate for their lack of first-hand knowledge. Osborne has clearly declined to undertake that task, and indeed he blandly admitted as much in these columns on March 14:

> The first hurdle I set myself was to only write, as far as possible, with the aid of my own notes and recollections and of published sources. . . .

I would hardly describe such a procedure as a "hurdle", although it is certainly a way of getting your book out at high speed in order to be first in the field. Osborne himself has of course no "notes and recollections" of Auden in the 1930s, and therefore this part of the biography is exactly what his own description suggests — a collocation of familiar printed sources, scarcely edited extracts (and sometimes page-long quotations) from Isherwood, Spender and Lehmann's autobiographies, from *W. H. Auden: a tribute*, and from the poet's own scattered autobiographical fragments and his travel writings. There is nothing new here, but at least the narrative does have a certain coherence, since all its components have already been worked by other writers. In the second, postwar part of the account, by contrast, there is a good deal which is unfamiliar but hardly any coherence. Seemingly aware of his own earlier lack of material, Osborne simply writes down everything he knows about Auden's later life in the order in which it happened, giving no more weight to what may have been major personal crises than to shopping lists and holiday itineraries, and hopes that it will somehow all add up to a picture of the poet.

Only one principle of selection seems to be in play: to give as much prominence as possible to Auden's high opinion of the author's own talents and to recording their conversations together ("'You'll go mad, having to deal with boring cultural bureaucrats [at the Arts Council]'. 'Worse than that, my dear Wystan, I shall become one.'"). The book ends with an embarassing five-page account of Osborne's emotions at the Kirchstetten funeral ("Siegfried's Funeral March was about to be played . . . I had barely risen to my feet before I felt myself knocked in the solar plexus by the sheer emotive force of Wagner's genius. 'You bastard', I apostrophized the great composer under my breath . . .."). Perhaps it is true that, in exile, Auden's life and poetry were often shapeless and self-indulgent. But is that really sufficient excuse for publishing a shapeless and self-indulgent account of them?

If then you are thirsty for detailed accounts of how Wystan Auden ran over a chicken on the road to "Gaminglay" (Gamlingay, actually) in July 1929 and had "huge globules of wax" syringed from his ears in November 1947, for a catalogue of the detritus in his "not unsqualid" (sic) Greenwich Village apartment, and for the reprinted menu of the lunch he served Stravinsky in 1946, then this is the book for your coffee-table. If, like me, you are becoming increasingly depressed by the flood of underresearched, carelessly-prepared and superficial books which publishers are rushing out in order to cash in on the revival of interest in the 1930s, and feel like me that we shall not get that extraordinary decade's complex literary, political and intellectual patterns into focus until someone does justice to the biggest and most paradoxical writer, then you will be hoping that this book is superseded as soon as possible, urging Edward Mendelson to speed up his work-rate, and waiting for the authorized biography.



Auden while at Oxford.

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'At his farmhouse hotel near Vienna.

BOOKS

Practical and expressive social activity

Social Being: a theory for social psychology
by Rom Harré
Blackwell, £15.00 and £5.95
ISBN 0 631 10691 X and 12791 7

Social Being speaks on three grand topics: the nature of the person, the nature of society, and the method of social inquiry. What it says on the first subject is rather secondhand and not very satisfying. What it says on the other two is more stimulating, and serves as a useful summary of the views with which Harré has been associated since his authorship, with Paul Secord, of *The Explanation of Social Behaviour*.

Harré puts forward three major theses on the nature of persons: that they are autonomous, being capable of recognizing the influence of any motivational factor and of initiating or reinforcing it; that they are the immediate authors of their actions, causing them to occur in a manner that cannot be analysed as a case of their mental states' occasioning the actions; and that they are embodied, in the sense that their mental states do not exist over and beyond their physical ones.

Harré's presentation and defence of each of these claims is unsatisfactory. The first thesis, contrary to his intention, does nothing to explicate autonomy since a notion of autonomy is slipped into the analysis itself: in monitoring the influences that motivate them people are depicted as free from further influences, at least in the limit cases. Thus autonomy is bluntly assumed rather than being analysed and argued for.

As for the second thesis, this is as obscure in Harré's hands as it is in those of its other defenders. When we say the engine is making a noise, we clearly mean that the rattling of its parts is doing so. When we say that a person is performing an action, why should we not just mean that his reading of his situation is giving rise to a behavioural response?

The third, physicalist thesis is also unsatisfactory because Harré relies for its defence on a sketchy *presentation of a stock point of view*: that which would represent mental states as functionally identified and capable of different sorts of physical realization. He ignores the difficulties that have been raised for this point of view, the amendments through which it has recently been put and the alternatives to it that have been developed.

In dealing with the nature of society Harré is on ground which he has done more to make his own. He defends a number of engaging claims. Social activity has two aspects: the practical, which is concerned with the achievement of regular goals, and the expressive, which has to do with the self-presentation of the agent. Since the expressive aspect dominates over the practical in most societies, and since the goal of expression is to secure recognition and respect, "the pursuit of reputation in the eyes of others is the overriding preoccupation of human life". The pursuit of reputation is primarily displayed in how agents act towards others, and how they account to others for their actions. In sustaining regular patterns of actions and accounting, people form groups but, while such entities may have "emergent properties", they are not causally independent of people. Social change is to be understood on an evolutionary-cum-dialectical model, but in such a way that individuals remain the ultimate determinants of whether a change is consolidated. The hope for radical social change turns on the possibility of creating new expressive practices, new dispensations of reputation, a possibility to be explored in small-scale social revolutions. "The task of the reconstruction of society can be begun by anyone at any time in any face to face encounter."

Harré's discussion of these theses, and I do not have space to assess it properly here, varies considerably in quality. The claim about the predominance of the pursuit of reputation is largely contentious and is not defended at adequate length. The claim about the status of groups, while it seems to me to be reasonable, is backed by a discussion in which no proper definition is given of an emergent property and no explicit argument is offered in defence of the thesis. On the other hand, the background discussion to the claims about social change is richly informed and full of interest even if it fails to make either thesis irresistible.

On the method of social inquiry Harré has, as with "the nature of society", distinctive and interesting things to say, though his defence of them is of variable quality. He claims that traditional methods of studying small-scale and large-scale social phenomena are inadequate, reflecting an inappropriate positivist methodology. Large-scale phenomena are not directly accessible to the social scientist and may be examined only in the effects that they have on the small-scale. The study of small-scale phenomena may take any of a number of forms, such as the analysis of episodes of action and accounting, or the investigation of individual biographies.

In any case it should be ideographic rather than nomothetic, concentrating on the particular and the distinctive in the first instance, and only looking for generalities in the second. The aim of any social study is, as realism claims, to unearth the causal mechanism producing behaviour: this consists in the knowledge and motivation of the behaving agents. The discovery of such mechanism is facilitated by the construction of models, such as the problem-solving, or the dramaturgical, model of the social episode. The adequacy of any account in social science is guaranteed only by positive feedback: the fact that the people on whom it bears can be persuaded to accept it.

In his discussion of these claims Harré provides a useful summary of the criticisms of positivism in social science, but he does little to establish his denigration of the study of large-scale phenomena. His claim that social science should be ideographic is one that I welcome, but he fails to tackle the question of what it is that arises from it, that of what the form of ideographic analysis is. The three claims listed are very unsupply together. How can the first admit that incompatible models both represent the same mechanism? And why should he think widespread acceptance guarantees the adequacy of an account? The last question is particularly odd since Harré sometimes suggests that acceptance guarantees adequacy to the extent that people bring themselves into line with any account they accept. I fail to see how a realist can endorse that suggestion except in a quixotic sense.

Social Being is a mixed bag. Its work will be a useful sourcebook of suggestions for social psychologists in search of theory, but it will not be the bible of any new orthodoxy. The term "ethogenic" appears spasmodically in description of the approach taken by Harré but ethogenics is as elusive, to the eye, as the emperor's new clothes. There is no grand theory here although there are a great many theoretical ideas. Still this is fertile criticism, since social psychology has laboured so long on the riches of ideas provided by behaviourism. Harré's intervention in social psychology will surely prove a productive one.

Philip Pettit

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The central significance of attitudes to race

Racial Prejudice, the Individual and Society
by Christopher Bagley and Gajendra K. Verma
Saxon House, £8.50
ISBN 0 566 00294 9

The historical connexions of British society with the slave trade and the slave systems of the Caribbean and America, our journeys of adventure, religious missions and acquisition of an empire, our domestic racist movements and our postures towards pre-war antisemitism, our postwar labour shortages, gradual relinquishment of colonies, and our deepening economic failure, have all fed into those lines of historical development of our social structure and common belief which have converged on to the question of "race" in British society.

This crystallization of a contemporary "race relations" issue—like the emergence of the feminist movement—has dug deep into academic traditions and modes of work, sending historians, social scientists and critics scurrying to reshape their interests and approaches; careers of the academic world, particularly the social sciences, have been visibly agitated by the surfacing of this "new" question. The historians have done much good work piecing together the history of "the black presence" and Victorian attitudes to class and race; the sociologists have gone some way towards documenting housing and employment patterns and the police; and the psychologists have taken up largely American methodologies for the study of prejudice.

Taken together, as attempts to appreciate the totality of the question, the present results seem exceedingly unsatisfactory. We have not achieved much in the way of the intellectual incorporation of the significance of race into the social or behavioural sciences. Nor — though not necessarily for the above reason—has much been achieved by way of social policy, political thinking and active initiatives.

The social psychological approach well represented by Bagley and Verma in this book, places its faith in the absolutely central significance of attitudes to race, and aspires to measure them, explain their genesis, their variation in strength and incidence, and, most difficult of all, their relationship to actions. When is an attitude specifically an attitude of racial significance? Do racially discriminatory actions flow directly from racial attitudes? Are there not a whole series of actions, institutional arrangements and beliefs which are not overtly "racist" in character, but which deeply affect, say, the lives of coloured immigrants in Britain? Do people really hold in their minds coherent, relatively permanent postures towards subjects, which can be measured and termed specific attitudes? Is this little nugget in the mind "the racially prejudiced attitude" really the place to look in understanding the kind of problems of interpretation outlined above? There is ample evidence that Bagley and Verma have confronted these questions, and do all they can to make their readers aware of them. This is as it should be because, in my view, their book exemplifies the weaknesses and difficulties of social psychology as much as its strengths.

They begin by saying that "the methods of study are . . . those of traditional social psychology, examining statistical correlates of previously validated scales, and interpreting these correlations by various types of multivariate analysis". Much of the analysis is of this kind; the measurement of prejudice, its association with other attitudes, its relationship to differential contexts, to age, education and social class, the way prejudice is evoked in different situations; the best literature on this subject, including an interesting discussion of Milgram's work on response to authority, is summarized and criticized very fully.

But, even allowing for the fact that the authors repeatedly point to the limits of social psychological method, serious contradictions remain. The book begins with a resumé of Parsons's schema of personality, culture and social system levels of analysis. Even this severe thought is held promise, it is scarcely followed through, and later chapters find the authors tending to dismiss Parsons for his undue emphasis on "integration". An early passage scolds Marx for seeing beliefs as determined by material relations; a later passage enthusiastically embraces a notionally Marxist analysis of the functions of racism in sustaining forms of class subordination. Phenomenology, phenomenological critiques and method are frequently mentioned but turn out only to be making courtesy appearances. Then they cite Bem's view that "opinions/molecules . . . are conversationally/universal . . . they do not need to have logical interconnections between them and they are notoriously invulnerable to attitude change/disapproval. But surely this does considerable damage to the notion of attitude as a measurable unit of intelligible belief. Chapter five, on racism and the mass media, contains a valuable and excellent summary of the evidence in this area; methodologically it stands apart from the rest of the book.

Perhaps saddest of all is the overwhelming impression conveyed by the volume (whether by social psychological techniques or by drawing upon historical and discursive sources) of the depth and breadth of racial hostility in Britain today. The final chapter "Prejudice, cures and cures", is seven pages long and the specific section of it entitled "Reduction of racism" is less than a page.

Steven Fenton

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The right conditions for a trip down Memory Lane

Yearning for Yesterday: a sociology of nostalgia
by Fred Davis
Collier Macmillan, £7.50
ISBN 0 02 906950 5

Nostalgia—from the Greek *nostos* (to return home) and *algia* (a painful condition), hence a painful yearning to return home—was a term coined by a Swiss physician in 1688. It was meant to designate a familiar, if not especially frequent condition of extreme homesickness among Swiss mercenaries fighting far from home in the regions of the pre-Napoleonic Continent. The symptoms included despondency, melancholia, bouts of weeping and a general wasting away.

From these obscure etymological beginnings, Fred Davis sets out to explore this modern preoccupation and never obscure attempt to colonize levels of collective, commercially induced nostalgia as an area of sociological interest. That someone other than a poet or psychologist should take nostalgia in a serious, mature way up the subject might, as he admits, be presumptuous, but the results, anything, understates the sociological case.

Once the term nostalgia was unmoored from its pathological beginnings by the twentieth century "demilitarized" and "domedicalized" as Davis puts it—it also lost its core meaning of homesickness. It came to signify something more than a simple memory of the past but something less than, the pleasant state of mind to which it once referred. In trying to pin down the word's contemporary meaning to a common base in subjective experience, Davis runs into some trouble. One problem is whether the past which is the object of nostalgia must in some way be personally experienced. Initially, Davis seems to want to insist on this criterion but later he makes it obvious that it is possible to feel nostalgia for times and places that were not actually part of one's life. This is shown clearly in his suggestive analysis of "armchair nostalgia" conducted through the medium of television.

Rightly though, Davis interprets his sociological task not as explaining the content of any of these specific nostalgias in fashion, music, cinema or whatever, but as trying to delineate the general conditions and circumstances which evoke the nostalgic feeling. There is little point, as he says, in those standard explanations which imply that some putative characteristic (like the "style" of 1968 coincides) intrinsic to any particular slice of the past, actually causes it to be a candidate for revival at the present. This is a faulty formulation of the causal chain. Nostalgia uses the past; it is not a simple product of the past. Hence, then, should be looking for the precise conditions which evoke nostalgia and its overall social and political functions.

To find these conditions Davis first traverses the familiar territory of poets and psychologists; the way the "past" of nostalgia is infused with pleasing warm feeling as contrasted with the always bleaker present. He weaves nicely through the complicated inner dialogue of the nostalgic experience with its various orders of cognition: "simple" (things were better before); "reflexive" (was it really that way then?) and "interpreted" (why am I feeling like this now?). The main argument is that nostalgia thrives on transition, dislocation, discontinuity. These themes are related to the question of personal identity—the psychological use of nostalgia in the perpetual work of constructing and protecting a sense of self—and to particular phases of discontinuity in the life cycle.

The argument works best at these intersectionist and phenomenological levels. When Davis extrapolates to the societal level—by talking about great historical transitions such as war, depression and cultural dislocation—things are not quite as convincing. Relating the nostalgia waves of the 1970s to the massive identity dislocations of the 1960s, for example, does not altogether convey those political reverberations he is looking for. It misses the argument (recently articulated in Lasch's theory of the "narcissistic personality") that in society (which has made nostalgia a marketable commodity in fact might be rationalizing and devaluing the past as a serious standard by which to judge the present. Another omission is consideration of how both radical and conservative political movements draw their ideological strengths from appeals to a mythical past.

But Davis disarmingly confesses that his omissions are "suggestive" and his book justifies itself as a discursive essay rather than a full theory. No doubt it will be read one day by those "nostalgia specialists" whom Davis so imagines will be employed by the media to calculate future "Nostalgia Exploitation Potentials". The judgment of programmes, songs, personalities and genres will be (is already?) not of their lyrical or artistic worth, but of their commercial success, successful recycling.

Stanley Cohen

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BOOKS



John Lavery's portrait of Lady Lavery as Cathleen ni Houlihan (1923), taken from Jeanne Sheehy's The Rediscovery of Ireland's Past: the Celtic Revival 1830-1930 (Thames and Hudson, £8.95).

Heroism and suffering

British Society and the French Wars 1793-1815
by Clive Emsley
Macmillan, £8.95 and £3.95
ISBN 0 333 240 219 and 240 227

The impact of war on society, and in particular the energizing effect of war as an agent of social transformation, are themes which have attracted the attention of a growing number of historians. Clive Emsley's purpose in this welcome new study is to provide a useful summary of the main developments in English society during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. He is not concerned with the narrative of political, military and naval events, but a knowledge of the main course of the war is essential if the reader is to get the most out of his pages.

Broadly speaking Mr Emsley succeeds in his purpose. For the student his book will be of great value. It is clear, judiciously balanced, and free from exaggeration. It reveals the complexities of social development, without losing sight of the main issues. The author avoids the extremes of historical interpretation. He stoops neither to lurid invective nor to excessive praise. There is compassion in his pages, but never indignation. Sobriety, rather than excitement, marks his general approach. He sympathizes with the victims of the press gang, the suffering of the soldiers, the hardships of the poor, but he can also describe with insight the pressures weighing upon those who carried the burdens of public office. The breadth of his sympathies and his restraint in dealing with some of the more controversial aspects of the period make his book attractive and distinctive.

Mr Emsley believes the threat of domestic revolution in Britain to have been greatly exaggerated, not only by many of those who lived through the turbulent years of war and economic recession, but by many historians since. There is nothing new, of course, in this viewpoint, but it is timely to restate it. The extreme radicals are not ignored, but the majority of reformers are shown to have been men of reason, not violence, something it. He also deals well with war finance, and the impact this had on public attitudes.

There are times when Mr Emsley errs on the side of caution, however. He is fully acquainted with the work of E. P. Thompson and his critics, but in his anxiety to be fair to conflicting interpretations he is sometimes inconclusive. An instance of this is his treatment of the Luddites. He quotes Mr Thompson to the effect that "sheer insurrectionary fury has rarely been more widespread in English history" than in the summer of 1812, yet he doubts whether Luddism posed a real revolutionary threat, stating that revolutions require more than a lower-class rising. He praises the Government for not losing its nerve, though he feels that the Home Secretary was indecisive. All this underscores one of the main difficulties facing the historian of society in this period: that of tracing the connexion between social and economic distress and politically motivated protest. It is a sign of this book's quality that Mr Emsley often leaves the reader eager for more information. He has succeeded admirably in providing not merely a convenient survey of the period but one which captures much of the heroism as well as the suffering of the age.

John Derry

John Derry is reader in history at the University of Newcastle.

Popular reformer

Necker: reform statesman of the ancien régime
by Robert H. Harris
University of California Press, £10.00
ISBN 0 520 03647 7

The venomous libels which accompanied the dismissal of Necker in 1781 and the false statistics by which his successor, Calonne, sought to discredit his achievements have been accepted uncritically by generations of historians. The cult of Turgot has cast a shadow over the Genevan banker and it is only recently that a few writers have called for a re-examination of his role as a minister in the dying years of the ancien régime.

Professor Harris has taken up the challenge and, acknowledging that his book is "admittedly a rehabilitation", has found so much convincing archival evidence that he has had to confine himself to the first ministry of 1776-81. Necker was a more cautious reformer than Turgot, but was so successful that even his supporters doubted some of the claims made about his work. His detractors said either that he was a timid version of Turgot or that he was an outright liar. Yet Necker was pursuing the policy which had been advocated long before by Fénelon. He believed in "reform without despotism". Where some ministers had sought the cooperation of the privileged orders, while others, like Turgot, had tried to impose reforms from the centre, Necker realized that it was essential to begin by winning the support of a large section of the public.

As a first step it was vital that the crown should be seen to put its own house in order. His attack on extravagance began in the royal household and in the central government departments, especially those of foreign affairs and war. He drastically reduced the number of venal office-holders, replacing some of them by more trustworthy salaried officials, and insisted on accurate and centralized accounting to identify and prevent waste. In the bouche du roi alone he suppressed 400 officials without impairing the standards of the royal dinner-table. By these means he quickly succeeded in changing the ordinary revenue account from deficit to surplus. He refused to increase taxation to finance the American War, preferring to raise loans which, because he established confidence in the credit-worthiness of the crown, were at less ruinous terms than usual. He explained his policies at length and published full details of the royal finances, with a frankness derided by his enemies as vulgar publicity-seeking.

Having improved the image of the monarchy, he then tried to increase the participation of the local communities in government. His pilot scheme for provincial assemblies recognized the wide regional variations within France and that attempts to eradicate them would always fail.

The first meetings of these novel bodies showed that it was now possible to break the alliance of local elite groups against the crown, because the *notables* supported his plans for fiscal and administrative reform. He thus threatened the authority of, and alienated the *intendants*, whom he saw as the agents of despotism, and the *parlements*, while at court his household reforms infuriated courtiers and redundant officials. Therefore although he still enjoyed much popular acclaim throughout the country, his dismissal was engineered by Maurepas in 1781.

Harris also strongly rejects the charges that Necker made a personal fortune from his ministerial activities and from his work for the East India Company, and that he falsified the state of the royal finances in *Compte-rendu* of 1781. Nor was he a strict mercantilist, believing rather that contemporary free trade theories were too idealistic and that some limited state intervention in the economy was necessary. He was in fact a "liberal", genuinely concerned about the rural and industrial poor, detesting warfare, and fully aware that governments can achieve little without the trust of their subjects.

Roger Metfam

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North's feats of rhetoric

The Early Career of Lord North the Prime Minister
by Charles Daniel Smith
Athlone Press, £12.00
ISBN 0 485 11188 8

Charles Daniel Smith is professor of Rhetoric at Syracuse University, New York, which arouses expectations of a novel approach to his subject. These are not entirely disappointed, the focus of the study being on North's skills as a debater in the House of Commons, and the techniques he used to defend the governments he served before 1770. But this nugget of originality is embedded in biographical and domestic detail which detracts from its novelty.

The opening chapter is largely devoted to the problem of whether or not North was the son of Frederick Prince of Wales rather than of the first earl of Guilford. Inevitably this rests very largely on purse speculation, and while Professor Smith, unlike most other historians, thinks there is something in the rumours, he gives no solid reason for accepting that his guess is any better than theirs. This chapter should perhaps have been published separately as an article in one of the less heavyweight historical journals, thereby reducing the length and the price of the book. There is also an appendix on Lord North's houses which has no obvious bearing on the theme of his rhetoric, and it too could profitably have appeared elsewhere, along with the curiously monochrome photographs which are redolent of faded backnumbers of an illustrated magazine.

At the heart of the book, however, there is a discussion of North's performance in the Commons which throws some interesting light on his rise to power, revealing to what extent his reputation as a superb parliamentary debater is justified. At first sight it seems odd that he should have been considered to be a good speaker, since he had a large tongue which "rendered his articulation somewhat thick", and he believed his speeches to the House "with unnecessary pomp". Yet his loud and deliberate delivery enabled him to be heard by every member, while as William Pitt the Younger observed the heavy manner was offset by the "cheerful, elegant and sportive" subject matter of his speeches.

Documentary evidence for North's speeches is sparse until Sir Henry Cavendish's diary starts in 1768. Then the situation is so transformed that it is not surprising to find a confident rhetoric elated, though he does get a little carried away, saying that Cavendish's "accomplishment was as remarkable in its way as Sir Edmund Hillary's climbing Mount Everest".

Professor Smith analyses two aspects of North's parliamentary speaking: the prepared set speeches for formal occasions like a budget; and the ripostes to opposition attacks when he had to think on his feet. The first were "marked throughout by neatness and orderliness". One MP observed in April 1769, "Yesterday Lord North opened his budget . . . and in the four-and-twenty years that I have sat in Parliament . . . I verily think I have never known any of his predecessors acquit themselves so much to the satisfaction of the House." In making the second, unlike the Elder Pitt who could not wait to intervene, North preferred to speak last in order to sum up opposition arguments. Naturally he did this more like a barrister summing up for the defence than as a judge impartially addressing a jury, as the index entries for his efforts on behalf of the ministry indicate: "ignoring issues . . . preventing questions from reaching floor . . . unending sense . . . of opposition motions . . . shifting ground . . . mistaking opponents' meaning . . . using King's name in debate . . . use of non sequitur". Nor was he above a deliberate lie, on one occasion flatly denying that he had deliberately used the King's name to influence debate when he had patently been doing precisely that. Such oratorical tricks are the mark of an expert debater rather than of an upright politician.

Professor Smith nevertheless admits that he is one of North's admirers. This puts him in the company of almost all recent studies of the Prime Minister, as he acknowledges in the preface. Yet there are signs that the pendulum of historical opinion is beginning to drive again back towards the less favourable view of North that was prevalent until Sir Lewis Namier and his followers refurbished his image. A different view of the political context of the 1760s from that described by Sir Lewis is currently emerging from the researches of those like John Brewer who study the alternative political nation. Significantly their work is not mentioned in the bibliography. Professor Smith can, however be excused for a somewhat old-fashioned approach to North, since he has been working on this book for 28 years. In this respect it is vintage port rather than heady bus immature beaujolais.

W. A. Speck

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BOOKS

Turning the tide

The Tidal Thames : the history of a river and its fishes
by Alwynne Wheeler
Routledge & Kegan Paul, £8.95
ISBN 0 7100 0200 9



Cholera : the silent highway-man. Mansell Collection

Confronted as we are on every side by apocalyptic prophecies of impending ecological catastrophe, this book recording the death and rebirth of the tidal Thames is a heartening demonstration of our ability to repair (at least on a local scale) some of the insults inflicted on the environment by earlier generations. It also provides a salutary reminder that degradation of the environment is neither a uniquely modern problem nor solely a by-product of the technological society.

After analyzing the social and historical factors that led to the appalling pollution of the river in the mid-nineteenth century, and to the virtual extinction of its fish populations, the author has recounted the series of measures which finally cleaned up the water sufficiently to permit its recolonization by many of the fish species that had been present in earlier times. For the general public this period of recovery was symbolized by the discovery in 1974 of the first salmon to be taken in the Thames for well over a hundred years, and this has been followed by further records and sightings in subsequent years.

Having been personally involved in monitoring the fish populations of the Thames for the past 20 years, Dr Wheeler is uniquely qualified to tell this story, which he has documented fully by evidence from all available sources, but more especially from records of fish taken from the intake screens of Thames power stations.

As regards the type of readership it is likely to attract, the book falls into two distinct parts. The first half provides a history of the estuary and its fisheries told with a wealth of historical anecdote ; this section will undoubtedly have the widest appeal. The remaining chapters are detailed accounts of the marine, migratory and freshwater fish species of the area and contains statistical information relating to population changes, particularly during the period when the river was recovering its health. Although these sections seem to be directed towards a more specialized readership, it is nevertheless important that such information has been placed on record to provide a more reliable basis for monitoring future changes in the fish populations of the river. As it stands, the data that the author has collected will be very useful to workers in estuarine and freshwater biology and particularly to those engaged in fisheries and water management.

Although at first localized in its effects, river pollution in the lower Thames basin has a very ancient history and even in the Middle Ages the tributary streams had begun to suffer the pressures of urban man. Of these the most notorious was the Fleet river, which even in 1290 was said to have been so foul that the White Friars complained that even their most pungent incense was incapable of disguising the stench. However, the era that showed the most rapid deterioration in the Thames itself was obviously the nineteenth century, with its combination of spectacular population growth and industrialization. Paradoxically, the introduction of the water closet, hailed as a landmark in public hygiene, was a major factor in aggravating the deterioration of the river, replacing the cesspits and ensuring that untreated sewage was discharged directly into the Thames. By the middle of the century the condition of the water had become intolerable and the author recounts how in the hot summer of 1858, a royal cruise had to be abandoned because of the stench of the water, while at the same period the curtains of the committee rooms of the Houses of Parliament were soaked in chloride of lime in an attempt to shield the noses of members from the noxious air. And it is of the old adage said to be current among local politicians that "there are no votes in sewers" such events were doubtless an important factor in expediting the plans for a reorganization of the sewage system and the construction of the main outfalls, depositing still untreated sewage further down the estuary in Barking Reach.

Real and more permanent improvement was only achieved much later in the middle of the present century when efficient methods of sewage treatment were finally developed.

As Dr Wheeler makes clear in his accounts of Thames fisheries and the descriptions of the various migratory species, pollution was by no means the only factor and perhaps in some cases, not the major factor in their decline. Even before the onset of the worst periods in the deterioration of the river, the construction of barriers to migration such as high weirs and pound locks to facilitate navigation, must have been responsible for the declining catches of lampreys, salmon, shad and smelt. Similar trends were also noted by nineteenth-century naturalists in other river systems, and notably in the Severn where pollution is unlikely to have been a serious factor. Although the possibility of some revival in commercial fishing both within the estuary and off the mouth of the Thames is envisaged by the author, he rightly dismisses the feasibility of restoring a viable salmon run as unrealistic and uneconomic, pointing out that as compared to the Severn or the Welsh rivers, the Thames was never an important salmon river. On the other hand, the variety of marine, migratory and freshwater fish species that are now present offers encouraging prospects for the enjoyment of sport anglers living within the Greater London area. In view of the increasing costs that will be involved in maintaining, let alone improving on present conditions in the river, it is to be hoped that his book will be widely read, if only to satisfy the ratepayers of the metropolis that their contributions are being put to good use.

M. W. Hardisty

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To each his own

The Starship and the Canoe : the true story of two remarkable men
by Kenneth Brower
Whizzard Press/André Deutsch, £5.50
ISBN 0 233 97404

The starship is the father's idea, a rocket (Orion) powered by successive nuclear explosions to reach beyond the solar system. The canoe is the son's, a giant 38-foot, six-person kayak to engage in silent explorations of the coastline of the Pacific north-west. The book is an absorbing dual biography of Freeman Dyson, a British physicist working at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, and his son George, a veteran of the US drop-out culture of the 1960s and 1970s. The author, Kenneth Brower, has explored the US generation gap with a story centred around the technological hopes and capabilities of the two generations.

The portraits are well drawn and the descriptions of the magnificent British Columbian coastline are worth the price of the book alone. Brower is perhaps too reverential about the elder Dyson's scientific credentials and has not penetrated deep enough to place the physicist's personality within the context of establishment scientific work. Freeman Dyson always called himself a technician not an innovator, and his involvement with a practical engineering project like Orion could have been made more alive. But Brower's real sympathies are with George, the son, and the account of the marginal lifestyles in the north-west is complete and satisfying on the psychological level that Brower has chosen.

To a British reader the book may seem strangely devoid of politics or any form of class consciousness. The relatively privileged background that has enabled George to take off to construct a high technology canoe (aluminium alloy 6061 T6, epoxy resins, fibreglass) is not discussed. The three major social movements that dominated and transformed United States cultural and political life in the past two decades, the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement and the women's liberation movement, receive scarcely a mention—Dyson's two wives and George Dyson's three sisters have no part to play in the story.

It is difficult to believe that these two men do not have strong feelings on these matters. Freeman Dyson, for example, was a participant in the United States Institute of Defense Analysis' summer Jason division, a think-tank of top United States scientists that produced detailed electronic battlefield plans that enabled the United States military to extend the Vietnam war through the use of automatic remote-controlled anti-personnel weaponry (*Pentagon Papers*, Gravel edition). But perhaps Brower feared the censorious United States publishers who look askance at anything that seems "political".

Still, this may be asking too much. Brower has recreated a fantasy exceptionally well. I would like to be off with George in a canoe myself watching killer whales, otter and salmon in the lush British Columbian coastline.

Joe Schwartz

Joe Schwartz is on leave from the Department of physics at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York.

Eulogy to cooling

Supercold : an introduction to low temperature technology
by David Wilson
Faber and Faber, £8.50
ISBN 0 571 10938 1

You may perhaps be able to guess that it was the Chinese who invented ice cream 2,000 years before Christ, but did you know that three quarters of all Britain's cattle are now produced by insemination with frozen sperm ? Food and agriculture are just two of a diverse variety of subjects linked by low temperatures and described by David Wilson in *Supercold*. Although the book is subtitled as an introduction to low temperature technology, it is really more of a eulogy to the benefits of cooling. If the colder the better, then it is a description of the actual methods. It is written in non-technical language for the interested general reader.

To anyone but a physicist, low probably describes any temperature much below the freezing point of water. Coldness of this degree is already sufficient to achieve the drastic slowing-down of biochemical processes that is needed to preserve dead or living material. The author devotes roughly a third of his book to this, the most familiar result of low temperature technology. His approach is largely an historical one. He treats us to an engrossing survey of frozen food through the ages, but, to my regret, does not complete the story with some hard information on modern techniques. Much of the history of freezing life-blood and storage, for example—is very recent, so that David Wilson was able to interview many of the principals in person in order to obtain their first-hand accounts of important discoveries and innovations. Such an approach, in addition to making fascinating reading, provides some much needed reassurance for the layman that scientists are real people, after all.

Many of the gases used in industrial processes, such as hydrogen, nitrogen, and liquid natural gas are either stored or transported as liquids. This is the major commercial use of cold, and the temperatures involved are considerably lower than those needed for chemical cooling. Once again David Wilson devotes much space on the historical aspects, beginning with the young Michael Faraday and his dirty test-tube of liquid chlorine.

Such unbelievably low temperatures are also required for some of the most exciting applications of cold, those involving superconductivity. Many potentially important benefits stem from the total loss of electrical resistance suffered by many metals close to the absolute zero. Power transmission without losses, through superconducting cables, low noise, high sensitivity electronic devices based on the Josephson junction, superconducting monorail much smaller than conventional types, and very high power electromagnets are a few of the prospects. For a variety of reasons—some technical, some commercial—the full potential of superconductivity has yet to be realized. Perhaps the most serious setback came from David Wilson's list of superconducting computer projects under development by IBM. The small size and minimal power consumption of this machine may revolutionize, yet again, the world of computers.

As long as the interested general reader wants to learn only about the "why" and not much about the "how" of low temperature technology, he will enjoy *Supercold*. The author takes us right over his own nations and descriptions, and manages to avoid jargon. This makes it all the more surprising that in the whole book there is not a single illustration. However skilled a writer may be with words, I do not believe that it is possible to communicate scientific concepts adequately to a general reader without pictures, or to describe technological devices entirely without pictures, to an equally skilled at interpreting words. Undoubtedly, however, David Wilson set himself a difficult task in writing *Supercold*, and in fact only to these minor criticisms does he has succeeded in producing a useful and readable review.

J. K. Wigmore

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BOOKS

Applying the evidence to the theory

Urban Politics : a sociological interpretation
by Peter Saunders
Hutchinson, £12.50
ISBN 0 09 136970 3

One of the most fertile areas of interdisciplinary studies in the social sciences to develop in recent years is that where sociology, political science, social administration and—to a lesser extent—urban geography meet. The study of the city in particular and the subject matter of what in the 1960s counted as urban sociology in general have benefited enormously from the attention of social scientists from all those specialities. The "new" urban sociology begins to have an excitement and appeal absent perhaps since the heyday of the Chicago School. Peter Saunders has written a book which reflects both this new-found vigour and disciplinary eclecticism. If the book sometimes wants coherence it is because the canvas is broad and the many components have not been fully or adequately integrated.

The book is written in two parts, the first, broadly speaking, being a discussion of some recent theoretical developments in the study of the city drawing on political theory and sociology, and the second, an investigation of the relationships between the local state and various interests that fall within its spatial purview, based upon empirical research in the London Borough of Croydon. The final chapter attempts a "methodological integration" of the theoretical first part and the empirical second part and raises issues about the epistemological relationships between theory and fact and the hermeneutic nature of knowledge. This draws upon work that more commonly falls within the philosophy of the social sciences.

The first is, on the whole, the more rewarding and useful part of the book. Here, the critical discussion of housing (in particular owner occupation) and class interests and of the "new urban politics" of Castells and Lojkine among others are particularly incisive and interesting. The provision of housing in Britain with its emphasis on the private owner-occupied sector raises particular problems for theories of collective consumption and Saunders's treatment of Castells's and Lojkine's different conceptions of collective consumption and how each might treat of the provision of housing through the private sector is just one example of the rewards this book has to offer.

Less satisfactory is the treatment in chapter four of the role and functions of the local state. The typology of possible "key functions" of the state for example, while useful as a descriptive catalogue, is not developed (as it could be) to provide testable hypotheses about which functions might be expected to predominate or attract greatest resources given either a Marxist interpretation (reproduction of labour and the relations of production) or a liberal interpretation (the provision of welfare which a claim to citizenship requires). Hence, arguments that a Marxist interpretation is incompatible with the relatively high proportions of welfare expenditure that go to non-productive sectors of the population—the elderly, the handicapped and so on—remain unanswered.

The second part of the book is more problematic. Here, the author draws on the earlier discussion of owner-occupation and class interests, the new urban politics (and in particular, Castells's work on urban social movements) and the functions of the local state, in order to interpret his data on the relationships between the local state and middle-class owner-occupiers, working-class tenants (private and public) and local business interests respectively. The data on which this part of the book rests were collected before the theoretical arguments of part one were formulated and for this reason, the author claims that the empirical findings do not provide a test of the theoretical formulations, but rather an application of them.

That the relationship between and integration of the theoretical and empirical parts of the book are problematic, is indicated by the fact that the author devotes the final chapter largely to a discussion of these issues. While post hoc interpretation of data according to imposed theoretical constructs is a perfectly acceptable procedure, the author concedes that "the search for evidence [and] the identification of evidence . . . necessarily reflect the prior role of theory in guiding research", yet gives no clue to what theoretical formulations originally guided the collection of data or how they differed from those subsequently used to inform their interpretation. The result is that the empirical sections of the book are less than satisfying. The data remain as isolated quotations from respondents which, for all the reader knows, may be highly selective.

The Croydon case study Mr Saunders argues, stands or falls by the criteria of testability, internal consistency and individual integrity, but he does not provide the reader with the material to apply them.

John Edwards

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American intervention

America and the Third World : revolution and intervention
by John L. S. Girling
Routledge & Kegan Paul, £10.50
ISBN 0 7100 0318 8

Crises are the commonplace of today's world order. By the mid-1960s three quarters of United States foreign aid was being devoted to security, and Defence Secretary Robert McNamara was proclaiming as an "irreducible fact" that "our security is related directly to the security of the newly developing world". When President Carter's critics look back on "a history of disasters", "the complete failure of a decade's foreign policy", or simply aver that he "does good things badly", must one not accept with gratitude any sympathetic analysis of America's current problems in the precarious Third World ?

The most recent such study, from the Australian National University's Research School of Pacific Studies, sets out to test three propositions : that the chief concern of American policy-makers is with global stability ; that this concern coincides with the interests of governments in most of the Third World ; and that if the latter's stability is severely threatened, American intervention may be necessary to preserve it.

Such threats may be indigenous in origin or may be instigated from outside the country, whichever case the situation will be differently appraised according to whether the viewpoint favoured is liberal-democratic or Marxist. The value and validity of these two mutually incompatible approaches Girling compares by reference to the three strongly contrasted cases of Thailand, South Vietnam and the Philippines. In the former, or "developmental pluralist" view, the developing country passes through transitional phases of state-building and then nation-building under the American shield, until the benefits of participation and distribution "trickle down". By neo-Marxist analysis, on the contrary, the underdevelopment of the Third World is a necessary and chronic consequence of colonial domination ; our talk should therefore be of "welfare-imperialism", an "infrastructure of dependency" and a "clientèle social class". From such a comparison the author concludes—and it is no rash deduction—that the Marxist thesis asks the right questions about the patron-client relationship, is more realistic in its initial appreciation of the *situation acquise*, but is thereafter stultified by its own arbitrary ideological framework. As against this, the political weakness of the liberal perspective, more flexible though it may be, is its fallacious over-readiness to identify in the Third World tendencies towards the structural pluralism of the democratic West and to carry these misconceptions through into concrete policy.

True to its subtitle, the book's contents are fairly evenly divided between the general headings of Revolution and Intervention. Under the former, while opportunity is found to compare rival theoreticians of revolution (Tilly, Gurr, Huntington and Chalmers Johnson), it is the practitioners who naturally claim most attention, whether detonating catalytic insurrection in Cuba or protracting rural insurgency in the Far East. Failures, like the Tupamaros of Uruguay, are studied to sharpen the perception of success. Here, though, publishers' deadlines exert their tyranny. The Iranian upset—nationalistic indeed, but Islamic and so far non-aligned—gets little more than stop press mention : while the recent fate of President Somoza of Nicaragua may have somewhat dented the author's prediction that "lengthy duration (of) repressive authoritarian regimes is most probable in Latin America, where the cycle of oppression is well under way". Nevertheless, Girling's method of disentangling the internal structural conditions conducive to instability from the contingent events which topple regimes is surely a valid and necessary corrective to loose concepts like the "domino" theory. Whether the role of precipitating agent in any particular upheaval proves to be nationalism, populism or ethnic self-consciousness, we shall not rightly discern the dominating patterns of behaviour in that unstable society unless we can hold it in historical perspective.

Moving across from revolution to intervention, the survey proceeds step by step from the nature of the United States' involvement in the Third World to the nature of her motivation—strategic or economic ? —and her decline to minimize intervention, albeit "globalism is more than a policy, it is a condition". Three closing chapters discuss the special problems posed by limited war, counter-insurgency and the Nixon doctrine, each classified as a variant of "preventive globalism". Between the two extremes of strategic engagement and total disengagement America must tread her path with discrimination. Yet (one might object) that very act of discriminating, so as to redefine and reduce her world role or "stake", may sap the confidence of those nations looking to her for support.

"There is no easy way out", concludes Girling. One can only hope that, at a juncture when Republicans appear hell-bent on reintroducing partisanship into foreign policy, his readers will include more than a few thoughtful members of Congress. For whom all has been said that is realistic in its initial appreciation of the *situation acquise*, but is thereafter stultified by its own arbitrary ideological framework.

J. K. Wigmore

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Catholics contending for power

Catholics and American Politics
by Mary T. Hanna
Harvard University Press, £9.00
ISBN 0 674 10325 4

The potential political weight of American Roman Catholics is based on their numbers (more than a quarter of the population of the United States) and on their upward social mobility in recent decades : they have now overtaken American Protestants in levels of education and income. These social facts have had some political consequences. Since 1961, when John Kennedy became America's first Catholic President, there have been regularly more than 100 Catholic Senators and Representatives. It is remarkable that this shift of the American polity towards Catholicism should be so little remarked upon. Yet is this shift itself remarkable ? Is it either a threat or a boon to the Republic, or is it not as indifferent as most observers have assumed by overlooking it ? This is the most important question raised—although not adequately addressed—by this book.

Mary Hanna agrees with those who argue that John Kennedy's success in presenting himself as a politician who happened to be Catholic rather than a Catholic politician helped make Catholics' political power acceptable. However, the thesis of her book is that in spite of this, American Catholics—Church, Congressmen, and people —should be regarded as a strong and effective political interest group which pursues not only economic benefits (aid to their schools, hospitals, and libraries ; energy and pension legislation advantageous to these institutions and to the Church) but also recognition and even establishment of their "well-developed system of values", for example in favour of unionization of poor farm workers and against the liberalization of abortion laws and the American war in Vietnam.

The dominant method of this study is the analysis of public opinion surveys and of the author's interviews with Church and Catholic community leaders and Catholic congressmen. Her presentation of the results of this method is restrained and self-effacing—no doubt intentionally so, but readers may find themselves wishing that more of the insights in the book came from the author rather than from her questions. On the other hand, the author's presuppositions do shape her conclusions, to such an extent that it could well be argued that they are determined by these presuppositions rather than by the survey and interview data. Her decision to treat a religious group as a political interest group may be a logical extension of the value neutrality of political science, but it distorts her judgment of both facts and values. By confusing the most important differences between secular and religious, she becomes unable to judge whether "the small minority of Church leaders" are correct when they charge that most of the "Catholic" values and political activism she reports are actually liberal values and activism.

By failing to reflect on the conflict between group and individual rights, she underestimates the gravity of "the possibility of severe conflict" which she does recognize as a part of "ethnic interest group politics". And by failing adequately to reflect on the proper place of races and religions in liberal politics, she can suggest that the exacerbation and politicization of ethnic and religious conflict is ultimately benign : "No matter how far apart opponents may be, their political participation in a democratic system seems to increase understanding and compromise." Fortunately, as the author lets us see, many politicians still judge these questions better than most political scientists, and are accordingly much more wary of the politicization of ethnic and religious conflict.

Those concerned with the problem of ethnic and religious consciousness in liberal politics will find much material for reflection in this book, but their reflections themselves will need a better guide.

John Zvesper

John Zvesper lectures in the school of economic and social studies at the University of East Anglia.

Putting plants in their place

Plant Strategies and Vegetation Processes
by J. P. Grime
Wiley, £11.50 and £4.95
ISBN 0 471 99695 5 and 99692 0

One of the major tasks for an ecologist is to "explain" the character and variety of living organisms and to interpret their distribution in space and time. Sadly the categories of organisms provided by the taxonomist rarely reflect the interests of the ecologist and readers because the traits used by taxonomists are chosen for their conservatism and stability, they more often tell us who mates with whom rather than what lives where. Ecologists therefore have tried to biologically relevant classifications of organisms that emphasize biological similarities rather than phylogenetic relationships. Philip Grime's book is the most recent attempt to categorize plants (and vegetation) in ecologically relevant terms. Most of his book reflects his own study in depth of the vegetation of the Sheffield district. His generalities will have to be tested by others elsewhere.

Grime believes that two major environmental forces, stress and disturbance, have, through natural selection, moulded the life cycles of plants and so the nature of vegetation. He recognizes three main classes of plants : "competitors", which meet low stress and low disturbance ; "stress tolerators", persisting under high stress but low disturbance ; and "ruderals", which meet low stress but high disturbance. The concept of "stress" is universal in Grime's argument—indeed the word appears 21 times on one page. He defines "stress" as "the external constraints which limit the rate of dry matter production of all or part of the vegetation". It is never really clear whether the stress is a feature of the environment or a condition in the plant—the usage of "stress" and "strain" as in physics would make things clearer.

The word "stress" is now so popular that a writer in a woman's page of a daily paper has suggested that use of the word actually causes the symptoms in mankind. It is said that for one research council the presence of the word in the title of a grant application is a prerequisite for success ; in botany the word carries the implication of "what I think I would not like if I was a plant".

Later chapters in the book subdivide the living plant categories of plant strategies and attempt to explain such phenomena as "dominance", "succession" and "diversity" in vegetation. Grime is one of the most stimulating plant ecologists working in Europe at present —the book is full of good observations and bright ideas. At the same time he has an infuriating habit of giving his own special meaning to words which rather hinders communication.

The book is nicely produced and well illustrated. The text would be more readable if redundancy was removed, such as (on one page) "an attempt has been made to", "it must be emphasized that . . ", "which suggests that . . ", "it is interesting to note that . . ", "So far it has been convenient to . . ", and "it has been necessary to . . ". This book is not a milestone in the history of plant ecology but a significant step in the escape from what Evelyn Hutchinson called "the aristotle tendency in plant ecology". I sat with the book and been filled. *The Vegetation of the Sheffield District—life in a stressful environment.*

John L. Harper

John L. Harper is professor of plant physiology at the University College of North Wales at Bangor.

Economists making hay from straw men

The Growth of Government
by Geoffrey K. Fry
Frank Cass, £13.15
ISBN 0 7146 3116 7

Geoffrey Fry's book on the growth of British government over the past two hundred years is a most useful account both of changes in ideas about government's role, and of changes that have taken place in its machinery and functions.

Dr Fry is an avid destroyer of the negative myths of the great economists. He argues that neither the mercantilism which Adam Smith attacked in *The Wealth of Nations* nor the orthodox economic tradition assailed by J. M. Keynes in *The General Theory* really existed. The supporters of those theories were straw men set up so that economists might make hay. Dr Fry writes of the mercantilist model that Adam Smith "constructed" :

> What rendered the pervasive Mercantilist State an illusion was the absence of the necessary governmental framework to render it fact.

Dr Fry also seeks to show that the economic orthodoxy attacked by Keynes was to some extent a mere artifact of Keynes's wish to have something to attack. "Indeed he [Keynes] had some trouble to find published works that fitted the picture he drew of his adversaries." This is not to deny that there was an economic orthodoxy (albeit one very different from that portrayed by Keynes) but it was one to which Keynes belonged and which he never fully abandoned. It is Dr Fry's view that Keynes's "failure to entirely discard Marshallian intellectual impediments was hidden from many friends and foes by the controversial manner in which he signalled his departure from what he portrayed in the *General Theory* as the prevailing orthodoxy".

Had the author been a sociologist (a role he has had the good sense to avoid) he might have placed the economists in a more general framework embracing ideologues and religious leaders. The crucial fact is, that "like Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, Keynes's *General Theory* was both a major contribution to the development of economics and a tract for the time". Adam Smith and Keynes were halfway to being ideologues. For a popular ideology to be successful it is almost a necessity that its founder should revile and falsify the beliefs and practices that prevailed before their enlightening message appeared. By comparison with the founding fathers of today's prevailing fanaticisms Adam Smith and J. M. Keynes appear models of academic respectability and judicious impartiality.

The iconoclastic Dr Fry is as sceptical about revolutions in the machinery of government as he is about revolutions in ideas about government. The changes of the nineteenth century he portrays as profound but slow, even and continuous. The institutions of Victorian England which have proved so regrettably durable were so slow to develop as they were slow to disappear. Besides, "Government remained small even as late as 1891 when its employees accounted for less than 4 per cent of the working population". The growth of government is emphatically a twentieth-century phenomenon, a product of the modern thirst for war and welfare. In emphasising twentieth-century expansion Dr Fry is being true to his dislike of revolutions, for this is hardly a revolutionary view of the processes that have led a quarter of the working population and a half of the Gross National Product to be absorbed by the Government. It is one, however, that needs to be spelt out in detail and the author does this in a way that displays a remarkable command of his sources. *The Growth of Government* is indeed one of those sceptical, deliberate, well-considered books that make a real and lasting contribution to the growth of knowledge.

J. H. C. Davies

J. C. H. Davies is senior lecturer in sociology at Reading University.

NOTICE BOARD

Noticeboard is compiled by Patricia Santinelli and Mila Goldie

Appointments

Universities

Bristol
Senior Lecturers, promotions: Dr P. D. Briggs (Russian); Dr F. ...ey (German); Dr H. A. Osmaston (geography); Dr Vanda M. Lucke (veterinary pathology); Dr D. E. ...(veterinary medicine); Dr ... H. Sherrin (law); M. D. W. ...kins (education); M. Wells (architecture); Dr E. J. Thomas (adult education).

Glasgow
Readers, promotions: M. T. Clanchy (mediaeval history); A. J. Sanford (psychology); S. M. Keane (accountancy); K. W. Stephen (dentistry); P. W. Macfarlane (medical cardiology); P. O. Behan (neurology), G. S. Fell (pathological biochemistry, Royal Infirmary); S. T. Sandison and K. Whaley (pathology, Western Infirmary); J. C. Brown (astronomy); J. R. Hillman and J. A. Milburn (botany); L. D. Barron and J. K. Tyler (chemistry); J. S. Keates (geography); D. Wakelin (zoology); H. H. Y. Wong (aeronautics and fluid mechanics); C. D. W. Wilkinson (electronics and electrical engineering); J. D. Dargie and P. H. Holmes (veterinary physiology); G. A. Smith (social administration and social work); J. B. Parr (social and economic research). Senior Lecturers: D. P. Leader (biochemistry); *K. M. Taylor (cardiac surgery)*; T. A. Norton (botany); D. K. Brown (mechanical engineering).

Heriot-Watt
Members of general convocation: Dr Anthony E Richie and the Rev Gordon Simpson. University Court: Andrew M. Russell.

Loughborough
Chancellor of the University: Sir Arnold Hall.

Belfast, The Queen's
Lecturers: G. W. Irwin (electrical and electronic engineering); E. B. Bond (midwifery and gynaecology); J. D. Tedford (industrial engineering); J. I. Coyle (medicine for dental students). Honorary senior research fellow: Frank Malpress (biochemistry).

Sheffield
Lecturers: Dr R. W. Anderson (genetics); Dr M. Greaves (haematology); Dr J. N. Payne (human biology and anatomy); Dr J. L. Haylor (pharmacology and therapeutics). Visiting professors: Dr E. Clementi (chemistry); Professor T. Nakase (economic and social history). Visiting lecturers: Dr A. R. W. Hughes (physics); Yang Quan (metallurgy).

Open University
Vice-chancellor: Professor John Horlock.

Strathclyde
Visiting professor: Miss B. D. Baker (geography). Readers: Dr Medardo Fraile (modern languages); Dr Charles E. S. MacRae (administration); Dr Ian G. Marshall (physiology and pharmacology).

Warwick
Senior lecturers: Dr Roger J. Avery and Dr Sandy B. Primrose (biological sciences); Dr Paul L. Stoneman (economics); Dr Rick A. Gekoski (English and comparative literary studies); Dr Bernard Capp (history); David H. Fowler (mathematics); Dr David O. Tall (science education).

Wales, Aberystwyth
Honorary college fellow: T. C. Davenport (physics and applied mathematics). College fellow: Arthur Giardelli (visual art). Fellow: Cadwaladr J. Lewis (economics).

Colleges

University College at Buckingham
International Advisory Council: Professor Malcolm Lester and Professor David Simmons.

Westminster College, Oxford
Vice-principal and principal-designate: Rev Dr Kenneth Wilson.

Honorary degrees

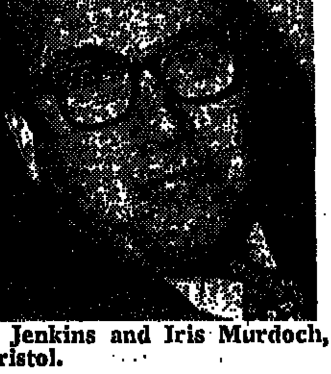
Bristol
The following have been awarded honorary degrees:—
DLitt: Miss Iris Murdock novelist and philosopher; Sir Kenneth Dover, president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Mr C. H. Sisson, writer and critic.
DSc: Professor H. H. Hopkins, professor of applied optics, Reading University.
LLD: Mr D. M. Borland, former chairman Cadbury Ltd and member of the council since 1962; Dr Alec Dickson, honorary director of Community Service Volunteers, the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins.
MA: Mrs A. Hewer, local magistrate and Mr A. G. W. Moon, retiring officer in charge of personnel administration.

Dublin
Trinity College, Dublin.
The following will be awarded degrees in July:
LLD: Sir Charles Carter, former vice chancellor of the University of Lancaster, and now chairman of the Northern Ireland Economic Council. Mr Desmond Guiness, chairman of the Irish Georgian Society; The Rev Gerald Magahy, headmaster, the King's Hospital.
LittD: Mr Cyril Cusack, actor; Mrs Mairin Ui Dhalaigh, pro chancellor of Dublin University. Mr George Mills Harper, professor of Florida State University.
DSc: Mr Thomas Walsh, former director of the Agricultural Institute;

Dundee
The following will be awarded degrees in July:
LLD: Dr James Black, director of the *therapeutics research* division of the Wellcome Research Laboratories, Lord Boyle of Harmsworth, vice chancellor of Leeds University; Mr James Cameron, author and journalist; Mr Jacques-Yves Cousteau, scientist, marine explorer and film producer; Mr Edward Kemp, retiring curator of Dundee University's Botanic Garden; Mr Alberto Morrocco, head of the school of painting in Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art.

Sussex
The following will be awarded degrees in July:
LLD: Baron Denning of Whitchurch, Master of the Rolls.
LittD: Sir Roland Penrose, art critic and chairman of the Institute of Contemporary Arts; V. S. Pritchett, author and literary critic; Mr Tom Stoppard, dramatist;
DSc: Sir Claus Moser, former director of Central Statistical Office and head of Government Statistical Service; Professor Sir Nevill Mott, physicist and Nobel prize-winner.

New University of Ulster
The following will be awarded honorary degrees in July:—
LittD: The chancellor, Lord Grey of Naunton; the dowager Duchess of Abercorn, president of the British Red Cross Society in Northern Ireland; Mr F. S. L. Lyons, provost of Trinity College, Dublin. Mr C. M. Monteith, chairman of Faber and Faber Ltd.




Roy Jenkins and Iris Murdoch, respectively an LLD and DLitt at Bristol.

Forthcoming events

"Leadership and Participation—Crisis or Opportunity" the third national workshop on organization development in education is to be held at the University of Leicester from April 11-13. Speakers will include Mr Rex Adams, director of studies, Ashorne College, Mr Charles Pettigrew, professor of management at the University of Warwick. Topics for workshops will include: interpersonal skills, coping with your boss, power and powerlessness, training. Fee: £35.00. Further information from Mr Stanley Putnam, Brookfield School, Brook Lane, Sarisbury Green, Southampton SO3 6DU.

* * *

An international conference on approaches to regional development: USA-European comparisons is to be held at the College of St. Mark and St. John, Plymouth from April 7-11. The main speakers include Professor John S. Adams, director, Hubert H. Humphrey Centre for Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, USA. Further information from the academic registrar, at the college, Derriford Road, Plymouth PL6 8BH.

* * *

"Education and the Idea of the Self" is the theme of the 1980 Dartington conference being held from April 8-13 at Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon. The programme will be fourfold, concentrating on different aspects of the self, whether physical, emotional, aesthetic or reflective. Further information from the Secretary, The Dartington Conference, Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EJ.

"Science and Medicine" an inaugural lecture by Professor W. F. M. Wallace, professor of applied physiology, will be delivered on April 16 in the New Physics Lecture Theatre, Physics Building of the Queen's University of Belfast. Admission free.

* * *

Computer Ergonomics, a short course aimed at designers, managers and users of computer systems, will be held from April 13-18 in the department of human sciences of the Loughborough University. A key feature of the course will be workshop sessions on topics or problems selected by the course members to help them improve their own systems. Further enquiries to: Brian Pearce or John Wilcox, department of human sciences, Loughborough University.

* * *

"The Place of Counselling in the Continuum of Helping Relationships in different cultural settings", the ninth international round table for the advancement of counselling (IRTAC) will be held at the University of Thessaloniki, Greece, from April 8-12. Further details from Dr Derek Hope, Secretary IRTAC, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

* * *

"Community Education—The Way Ahead", the third study conference of the Association of Community Schools Colleges and Centres, is to be held from April 11-13 at Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry. Further details from Pat Presdee, Woodway Park School, Woodway Lane. Coventry CV2 2AF.

"Teaching Chemistry in the 1980s" a bi-national workshop, University of East Anglia, April 9-17, "Continuing Education" a tri-national workshop, Manchester University, April 10-19, "Research and Creative Teaching" a bi-national workshop, University College, Oxford, April 8-20 and "Evaluating the Academic Department" a bi-national workshop, University of Durham, April 9-16, are four events being held under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee for the Training of University Teachers and the Swedish National Board of Universities and Colleges. Further information from Dr David Mach, CCTUT—UHA programme administrator, CCTUT, The Registry, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

* * *

"The Farmer and the Teacher—The farm as an educational resource" a regional conference to be held at the Staffordshire College of Agriculture, Rodbaston, Penkridge from April 11-13. The conference will explore the idea of using the farm as a classroom where children can learn not only about agriculture but also about woodlands, rivers, quarries, wildlife, and a host of other environmental subjects. Further details from Derrick Golland, Staffordshire College of Agriculture, at the above address.

* * *

Professor H. L. A. Hart, the eminent Oxford scholar of jurisprudence, is to be the keynote speaker at this year's conference of the Association of Legal and Social Philosophy from April 11-13 at Liverpool Polytechnic. The Secretary, Dr S. L. Jenkson, Department of Law, Polytechnic of North London, N.7.

Grants

Aberdeen
Forestry—Dr Ian R. Brown and Mr Derek Kennedy—£61,000 from the Wolfson Foundation to support their work in the breeding of improved birched trees to provide a more economic timber crop in Scotland.

Aston, Birmingham
Applied Psychology—Dr M. Kettle—£47,559 from the Health and Safety Executive for research on health and safety at work of physically disabled employees.
Civil Engineering — Professor M. Holmes, Dr L. Martin and Dr J. Purkiss—£37,680 from the SRC for monitoring and *control of experiments in a* civil engineering research laboratory.
Construction and Environmental Health—Dr N. R. Short and Dr C. L. Page—£22,500 from the SRC for a study of corrosion behaviour of galvanized steel in concrete.
Electrical and Electronic Engineering —Dr R. G. Wilson—£22,162 from the National Computing Centre for a study of the development and commercial exploitation of microprocessor training courses.
Mechanical Engineering—Dr G. K. Lewis—£27,690 from the SRC for a study of the effects of contaminated fluids in fluid power machinery. Professor K. Foster—£25,115 from the National Coal Board for a feasibility study into the improvements of mining boom control.
Metallurgy and Materials—Dr D. J. Arrowsmith and Dr J. K. Dennis—£57,900 from the SRC for the development of ion plating for industrial applications; Professor J. T. Barnby—£31,782 from the Ministry of Defence for a study of stress corrosion fatigue of a number of cast and wrought aluminium alloys.
Safety and Hygiene—Dr L. S. Levy—£82,168 from the Health and Safety Executive for a study of the putative carcinogenic action of metallic and mineral particulates introduced into the lung by intrabronchial pellet implantation.

Queen's Belfast University
Computer Science—£37,050 from the SRC for research on parallel language implementation under the direction of Dr R. H. Perrott.
Pure and Applied Physics—£28,094 for research on high resolution astronomical spectroscopy in the balloon ultraviolet, under the direction of Dr B. Bates.

Birmingham
Chemistry—Dr C. Greaves—£40,000 from the SRC for a study of the structures surface and bulk properties of selected metal oxides and hydroxides.
Medicine—Dr P. Cummins—£23,118 from the *MRC for a study of the role* of myosin isoenzymes in the development of cardiac hypertrophy.

Chairs

Dr Paul Broda has been appointed UMIST's first professor of molecular biology from September 1980. He is at present lecturer in molecular biology in University of Edinburgh and member of the molecular genetics unit.
Dr F. J. Bourne, reader in animal husbandry in the University of Bristol has been appointed to the chair in veterinary medicine in succession to Professor C. S. G. Grunsell.
Dr H. Pearson, senior lecturer in veterinary surgery in the University of Bristol, has been appointed to the chair in veterinary surgery in succession to Professor G. Arthur.

Mr A. A. Heatcote, at present lecturer in the department of hispanic studies, has been appointed Hughes professor of Spanish and head of department of Hispanic studies at the University of Sheffield from October 1.

Dr Melvin Larkin, director of technology and strategic planning of the Plessey Company, has been appointed visiting industrial professor to the University of Edinburgh's Wolfson Microelectronics Institute.

Mr Michael Marland, head of London's first multi-campus federal school in Westminster, has been appointed as honorary professor in the department of education at the University of Warwick from April 1.

Fellowships

The following have been appointed to the Harkness fellowships of the Commonwealth Fund:

A. J. Bate (St Catharine's College, Cambridge) English Literature; Miss J. P. Brodie (Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge) Astronomy; A. S. Burrows (Merton College, Oxford) Law; A. J. Cary (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) Business Administration; B. M. Chain (Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge) Immunology; N. A. J. Fabb (King's College, Cambridge), Linguistics; P. J. Griffiths (Trinity College, Oxford) Buddhist Studies; M. S. Hacker (University College, London) Architecture; R. Kidd (Newcastle Polytechnic; Painter) Painting; P. D. Klemperer (Arthur Andersen & Co, London) Business Administration; Miss H. J. Lade (Selwyn College, Cambridge) Chinese Studies; N. C. Lovegrove (Worcester College, Oxford) Public Administration; S. R. W. Marshall (Farrell/Grimshaw Partnership, London) Architecture; M. L. Mayer (School of Pharmacy, University of London) Pharmacology; D. Ostler (Farrell/Grimshaw Partnership, London) Architecture; T. D. Rossington (Balliol College, Oxford) International Relations; P. Sells (University of Liverpool) Linguistics; M. J. Singer (Yehudi Menuhin School) Composer; Composition; C. T. Sparrow (King's College, Cambridge), Mathematics; A. A. L. White (Central Electricity Generating Board) Energy Studies.

Open University programmes April 9 to April 11

There will be no Open University programmes between Saturday, April 5, and Tuesday, April 8.

Wednesday April 9

BBC 1
6.40* Education and the urban environment: Too Busy to Hate (E361 ; prog 2).
7.05 The development of instruments and their music: J. S. Bach: Partita for Solo Violin No. 2 in D Minor (A314 ; prog 4).
7.30* Research methods in education and the social sciences: Drawing Conclusions (DE304 ; prog 4).

BBC 2
6.40 Introductory electronics: Frequency ... (T283 ; prog 2).
7.05 ... Ecological ... (S... ; prog 4).
7.30 Comparative physiology: Nutrition, Feeding Mechanisms and Digestion in Animals (S321 ; prog 4).
10.00 ... on the Circle Line (S2.9 ; prog 4).
17.15 The ... of chemistry: Stereochemistry: Configurations (S304 ; prog 6).
17.40 ... 471-530 BC: Games and festivals (A292 ; prog 8).
18.05* ... in Britain: Public ... in the Community (D305 ; prog 4).
18.30 ... and ... of Argument on Television ... 2 (A101 ; prog 9).

RADIO 3 (VHF)
6.00 Music Fill.
6.20* History of architecture and design 1890-1939: Frank Lloyd Wright (A305 ; prog 8).
6.40 Drama: Music in Medieval Drama (A307 ; prog 4).
18.20* The Enlightenment: The Proper Study of Mankind is Man (Hume's Science of Man) (A204 ; prog 8).
18.40* Making sense of society: Introduction to Communication (D101 ; prog 8).

RADIO 4 (VHF)
23.30 Technology for teachers: Energy (PET271 ; prog 6).
23.50 Music Fill.

Thursday April 10

BBC 1
6.40* Management in education: Sidney Stringer: A Case Study in Management 2 (E321 ; prog 2).
7.05 The Enlightenment: Innocent Images in Hogarth's Painting (A204 ; prog 4).
7.30 Great Britain 1750-1950: sources and historiography: Victorian Music Hall (A401 ; prog 9).

BBC 2
6.40 Introduction to pure mathematics: Completeness (M203 ; prog 8).
7.05 Industrial ... in the Dock (T... ; prog 3).
7.30* Oceanography: Water Masses (S334 ; prog 4).
16.50* The Early Roman Empire and the Rise of Christianity: The Imperial Army (A291 ; prog 1).
17.15* Comparative politics: Dai Yu Dao: Big Fish Village (D232 ; prog 2).
17.40* Curriculum design and development: The Daily Street Kids (E203 ; prog 4).
18.00* Man's religious quest: The Mindful Way (AD208 ; prog 14).
18.30* Making sense of society: Analysing Social Interaction (D101 ; prog 6).

RADIO 3 (VHF)
6.00* Patterns of inequality: Taxation, Inflation and Low Pay (D302 ; prog 8).
6.20 The rise of modernism in music 1890-1930: Debussy's Jeux (A308 ; prog 4).
18.20* Computing and computers: Radio Tutorial (1) (PM951 ; prog 3).
18.40 Science foundation course: Energy Accounting (S101 ; prog 4).

RADIO 4 (VHF)
23.30* Social psychology: The Framework of Society (D305 ; prog 4).
23.50* Food production systems: Energy Use in the Food Systems (T273 ; prog 2).

RADIO 3 (VHF)
Alternative broadcasts for students in Scotland and mid-Wales only
24.00* Decision making in Britain: Investigating the Law (D203 ; prog 8).
00.20* Biochemistry and molecular biology: Tackling the Problem Book (S322 ; prog 4).
00.40* Second-level biology: Animal Cells and Tissues (S2Biol ; prog 5).

Friday April 11

BBC 1
6.40 Systems performance: human factors and systems failures: Disaster Simulation (2): Debriefing (TD342 ; prog 15).
7.05* Engineering mechanics: solids: Statics (T232 ; prog 2).
7.30* The nature of chemistry: Stereochemistry: Configurations (S304 ; prog 6).

BBC 2
6.40 Modern art from 1848 to the present: styles and social implications: The Drawings of Seurat (A351 ; prog 3).
7.05 Geology: Palaeontology and Geological Time (S23 ; prog 4).
7.30* Materials processing: Ellingham Diagrams (T352 ; prog 4).
16.50* Images and information: Exploring Frequency Space (ST291 ; prog 4).
17.15* The Earth's physical resources: Oil (S266 ; prog 3).
17.40 Partial differential equations of applied mathematics: Boundary Conditions and Properly Posed Problems (M321 ; prog 1).
18.05* Comparative physiology: Nutrition, Feeding Mechanisms and Digestion in Animals (S321 ; prog 4).
18.30* Business economics: Food Retailing: The Determinance of Market Power (D324 ; prog 2).

RADIO 3 (VHF)
6.00 Genetics: Genes, Chromosomes and Crossovers (S299 ; prog 4).
6.20* Biochemistry and molecular biology: Tackling the Problem Book (S322 ; prog 4).
6.40 Music Fill
18.20* Fundamentals of human geography: Forestry and Dartmoor (D204 ; prog 3).
18.40 Science and belief: from Copernicus to Darwin: Science and the Mechanistic Universe (AMST283 ; prog 3).

Alternative broadcasts for radio Scotland and radio Cymru areas only
23.30* Technology foundation course: Beyond Electric Money (T101 ; prog 8).
23.50* Renaissance and reformation: The Medici as Patrons (A201 ; prog 8).

Alternative broadcasts for students in Scotland and mid-Wales only
24.00* Social psychology: The Framework of Society (D305 ; prog 4).
00.20* Cognitive development: language and thinking from birth to adolescence: The Mind of a Child (E362 ; prog 2).
00.40* The development of instruments and their music: The Harpsicord in the Continuo (A301 ; prog 8).

Classified Advertisements Index

Appointments vacant
Universities
Fellowships & Studentships
Polytechnics
Technical Colleges
Colleges and Institutes of Technology
Colleges of Education
Colleges of Further Education
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Colleges and Departments of Art
Research Posts
Administration
Overseas
Adult Education
Librarians
General Vacancies
Official Appointments
Appointments wanted
Other classifications
Awards
Announcements
Exhibitions
Personal
Courses
Holidays and Accommodation

Universities

UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR
CALABAR, NIGERIA

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates at Professorial, Reader, Senior Lecturer/Lecturer levels in following disciplines:

1. MEDICAL SCHOOL
OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY
CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
PSYCHIATRY
PAEDIATRICS

Special interest in one of the following areas will be an advantage: Neonatology, Gastroenterology, Respiratory Disorders, Endocrinology, Nephrology, Human Genetics, Neurology.

2. FACULTY OF SCIENCE
CHEMISTRY
Interests in any of the following areas: Electro Analytical Chemistry, Heterocyclic Chemistry, Spectro Analytical Chemistry, Steroids Chemistry, Separation Processes, Spectroscopy.

GEOLOGY
Interests in one of the following areas: Geophysics, Sedimentology, Mineralogy, Petrology, Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology, Stratigraphy.

MUSEUM CURATOR
Candidates must be degree holders from recognized Universities, experienced in Geology techniques and in keeping a Museum.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Experience of teaching: Microbiology, Genetics, Ecology, Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology, Biometrics, Taxonomy.

MATHEMATICS/STATISTICS
Experience of teaching: Modern Algebra, Electromagnetic Theory, Real and Functional Analysis, Quantum Mechanics, Fluid Dynamics, Differential Equations, Statistics, Pure Mathematics/Statistics.

PHYSICS
Candidates required to direct postgraduate students in research fields of Atmospheric, Geophysics, Engineering Physics. Experimental Physicists are particularly sought.

3. FACULTY OF ARTS
ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES
Experience of teaching in English Language with particular reference to Language for Students of Literature. African Literature and Literature of Third World, African Literature, Literature of Western World (Europe/America), Literature of Eastern World.

4. THEATRE ARTS
Candidates for Professor/Readership must possess a Doctorate Degree in Theatre Arts and at least eight years' teaching and research experience in Theatre History (including Third World), Dramatic Theory and Criticism and/or Dramatic Literature.

5. FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL STUDIES
Senior Lecturer level as Co-ordinator who should have postgraduate qualifications and considerable experience in teaching course design and Administration at Post-secondary level in Third World Countries where English is second language.

GEOGRAPHY
Special interest in Biogeography, Regional System Analysis and Planning, Hydrology and Water Resources, Development of Geographical Thought.

POLITICAL SCIENCE: SENIOR LECTURER, LECTURER I/II
Special interest in Public Administration, Public Finance, Public Personnel Administration, Local Government/General Public Administration, Quantitative Politics, Social Statistics, Computer Programming, Political Theory, European and African Political Thoughts, Methodology.

MANAGEMENT STUDIES
All areas.

ECONOMICS
All areas

SOCIOLOGY
All areas (his ability to develop research and postgraduate studies.

6. FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Education—All areas.

ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

7. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
Candidates should not have less than five years' experience in dealing with Press, Radio and T.V. Successful candidates will also be in charge of Information and Publication.

CHIEF QUANTITY SURVEYOR
At least seven years' post-qualification experience in preparation of bills of quantity and measurement of projects on site.

SALARIES: Professor GL 16 N11,508-N12,720 p.a.; Reader GL 15 N10,296-N11,328 p.a.; Sen. Lecturer GL 13/14 N8,064-N10,128 p.a.; Lecturer I GL 12 N7,404-N8,052 p.a.; Lecturer II GL 10/11 N5,760-N7,284 p.a.; Asst Lecturer GL 9 N4,... p.a. (N1=£0.80 approx).

FRINGE BENEFITS: Part-furnished accommodation, or housing allowance in lieu; free medical care and for expatriates renewable contract appointments plus 25% of salary; return passages bi-annually.

METHOD OF APPLICATION: Four typewritten Curriculum Vitae, giving details of post required, full names, date and place of birth, home address and telephone number, Nationality, Marital status, present occupation. Qualifications: Institutions attended with dates. Experience: Posts held with dates and salary. References: Names and addresses of three who know you professionally. Applicants are advised to request referees to send their Confidential Reports to Principal Assistant Secretary (Recruitment), Nigerian Universities Office, 180 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LE, to whom applications should also be sent.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ASTON IN BIRMINGHAM
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
LIBRARY
Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Librarian (Social Sciences & Humanities). Applicants should be honours graduates, preferably in the Social Sciences, with a qualification in librarianship. Previous relevant experience in, and an understanding of, the work of a university or polytechnic library would be useful. Preference will be given to candidates with knowledge of a foreign language and familiarity with on-line information retrieval procedures.
The appointment is on the Senior Library Staff Grade 1A £5,052-£8,769 per annum.
Application forms and further details available from Mr. A. G. Rees, Staffing Department. Tel. 021-359 3611, Ext. 252, quoting reference No. 0/369/THES.
The University of Aston in Birmingham
Gosta Green
Birmingham B4 7ET

UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
(PORT MORESBY)
Applications are invited for the post of CO-ORDINATOR OF THE DIPLOMA IN MAGISTERIAL STUDIES at the Faculty of Law. The position is a challenging one requiring sound legal training, understanding of judicial process, and initiative. The Co-ordinator will supervise, organise and develop further the existing two year Diploma course. The Co-ordinator is Chairman of a Board of Studies responsible through the Faculty to the Academic Board for the conduct of the Diploma. The Diploma is an important part of the Faculty's programmes: its aim is to maintain and improve the quality of justice in courts of summary jurisdiction. The Diploma is conducted at undergraduate level, with some LLB degree courses and other courses specially designed, to provide theoretical and practical legal education to prospective Magistrates. The Co-ordinator will teach some of the units offered in the Diploma. Applicants should have: (i) LL.M. or higher Degree in Law or equivalent Degree; (ii) (a) Experience of organising and teaching judicial training courses or (b) Experience at the bar (c) Experience on the Bench. The requirement of a post-graduate Degree in Law may be waived in the case of an otherwise exceptionally qualified candidate.
Salary: K15,630 p.a. plus gratuity (£1 sterling=K1.33). 3-year contract. Support for approved research; rent-free accommodation; family passages; baggage allowance; annual overseas leave; education allowances; medical scheme. Applicants who wish to arrange secondment from their home institutions will be welcomed. Detailed applications (2 copies) including curriculum vitae, a recent small photograph and naming 3 referees, should be sent by airmail to the Assistant Secretary, Box 4820, University P.O., Papua New Guinea. Applicants resident in UK should also send 1 copy to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0DT. Further particulars are obtainable from either address. Closing date: 30 April, 1980.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO
Applications are invited for the post of
SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY
at General B.Sc. degree level. Salary scales: Senior Lecturer R7473-R8433 pa; Lecturer R5493-R7527 pa (£1 sterling=R1.79). The British Government may supplement salary in range £1,920-£4,434 pa (sterling) (reviewed annually and normally free of tax), plus associated benefits. Family passages; baggage allowance; gratuity or superannuation; education allowance; overseas leave; inducement allowance or supplementation. Detailed applications (two copies) with curriculum vitae and naming three referees to be sent direct to Assistant Registrar (Appointments), National University of Lesotho, Roma, Lesotho, by 25 April, 1980. Applicants resident in the UK should also send one copy to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT. Further details may be obtained from either address.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR
ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT
SALARY UP £8,769
Applications are invited for this important post in this large and active teaching and research Department. Candidates should have appropriate experience (e.g. administration, accounting or management). Knowledge of a relevant subject (eg. electronics, physics or computing science) to degree or equivalent level would be an advantage. Duties include financial control, staff management and resource allocation. The appointment is available immediately on 1A Scale, £4,402-£8,769 per annum (under review) according to experience. Good superannuation scheme and relocation expenses.
Applications giving a brief curriculum vitae and the names of three referees should be sent to D. A. S. Copland, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH, quoting reference 236/A from whom further particulars may be obtained. Closing date 25 April, 1980. Please quote reference THES.

BRADFORD
THE UNIVERSITY
MODERN LANGUAGES CENTRE
LECTURESHIP IN FRENCH
(Temporary)
Applications are invited for the above post from candidates with specialist interests in the contemporary language and civilization. Teaching duties will be concerned mainly with degree courses in Modern Languages and in European Studies. This is a fixed term post of one year's duration and the successful candidate will be expected to take up duties in September, 1980. Salary within the range £5,002 to £7,410 per annum.
Further particulars and application forms (to be returned as soon as possible) obtainable from the Registrar, Ref.: ML/L.25/TH, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP.

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE OXFORD
DOMESTIC BURSAR
St. Peter's College, Oxford, proposes to appoint a Domestic Bursar with effect from 1st September, 1980. The person appointed will be responsible to the Governing Body for the general domestic management and maintenance of the College and its properties, and will have overall responsibility for the management of all non-academic staff. The Salary will be on the University Lecturer scale (currently from £6,052 to £11,171 p.a., reached at age 42 or over; subject to possible further upward revision for 1980-81), plus a housing and an entertainment allowance. The person appointed will be elected to an Official Fellowship of the College, with membership of the Governing Body, and must be or become a member of U.S.S. The closing date for applications is 30th April, 1980. For further particulars write to the Master, St. Peter's College, Oxford OX1 2DL.

THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR/ ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
Applications from suitably qualified persons are invited for the post of Senior Assistant Registrar/Assistant Registrar within the office of the Registrar of the University. Duties attached to the post cover the following areas: academic administration; responsibility for the servicing of academic board and its committees; student administration; responsibility for student records, admissions, courses, sponsorships, examinations.
Applicants should have experience and knowledge of university administration together with a high proficiency in written English. Preference will be given to applicants with an appropriate degree and previous experience in a university environment. Level of appointment will be dependent on qualifications and experience.
Salary Range: K12810-K14660-K16810 plus 24% gratuity. (Kina 1=Approx £stg0.6384.)
Initial contract period, three years. Other benefits include a gratuity equal to 24%, appointment, repatriation and leave fares (staff member and family), settling-in and out allowances, six weeks' paid leave per year, education fares and assistance towards school fees, free housing. Salary continuation and medical benefit schemes available.
For information and conditions of service write to: (quoting post) The Registrar, University of Technology, P.O. Box 793, Lae, Papua New Guinea.
Applications close on 30 April, 1980.

BELFAST
THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
LECTURESHIPS
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
Applications are invited for LECTURESHIPS in CIVIL ENGINEERING tenable from 1st September, 1980 or such other date as may be agreed. One lectureship is available with special interest in Structural Analysis and Design and another is available for candidates having interest in the following subject areas: Construction Management or Water Engineering.
Applicants should preferably have appropriate professional and research experience.
Successful candidates will be expected to contribute to teaching and research within the Department.
Salaries will be according to qualifications and experience on the scale £5,002-£10,403 per annum (under review) with superannuation benefits.
Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland. Closing date: 30th April, 1980. (Please quote Ref. 80/THES).

EXETER
THE UNIVERSITY
LECTURER IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
Applications are invited for a LECTURESHIP in the DEPARTMENT of COMPUTER SCIENCE, tenable from 1 October, 1980.
Preference will be given to qualified persons working in the following areas of computer science: operating systems; artificial intelligence with applications in automated deduction and mathematical symbol manipulation; systems analysis; data bases and information retrieval; design and formal aspects of programming languages; distributed computing systems. However, particularly well-qualified persons in other areas of computer science are also welcome to apply.
Commencing salary will be within the range £5,002 to £..., per annum on the scale £5,002 to £10,404 per annum.
Further particulars may be obtained from Miss Doreen Watson, Northcote House, Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ, to whom applications (six copies) should be forwarded by 28 April 1980. Please quote reference No. 3257.

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Applications are invited for the post of Temporary LECTURER in the DEPARTMENT of INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS and MANAGEMENT STUDIES for one year from 1st October, 1980. Salary range: £5,002 to £10,404 per annum.
Applications (two copies), together with the names and addresses of two referees should be forwarded to the Vice-Principal (Administration) Registrar, University College, P.O. Box 78, Cardiff CF1 1XL, from whom further particulars will be available. Ref. 1499. Closing date 1st May, 1980.

EDINBURGH
THE UNIVERSITY
LECTURESHIP IN ARABIC
TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN TURKISH
Applications are invited for a LECTURESHIP in ARABIC tenable from 1st October, 1980, and for a Temporary Lectureship in Turkish tenable for two years from the same date.
Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary to the University, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL, with whom applications should be lodged by 30th April. Please quote Reference 1021.

Universities continued

UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Applications are invited for the post of

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

The major responsibilities of the Department are in undergraduate teaching, including relatively extensive service teaching for medical and agriculture students. Applicants should have a strong interest in the problems of teaching Physics in Papua New Guinea at all levels covered in the University. The Department also has an increasingly important role in training graduate science teachers and a particular interest in this aspect is considered desirable. Present research in the Department includes aeronomy, meteorology/agricultural Physics and solid earth geomagnetism. Applicants in these or other areas of the professor need not be confined to these areas but should be in the general area of applications of Physics to the Papua New Guinea environment. Applicants should have wide research capabilities and extensive research experience in at least one appropriate area. Previous experience of teaching and research in a developing country in a tropical environment will be considered an advantage.

Salary: K19,730 p.a. plus gratuity (K1 sterling = K1.53.) 3-year contract. Support for approved research; rent-free accommodation; family passages; baggage allowance; overseas leave; education subsidies; medical scheme. Applicants who wish to arrange secondment from their home institutions will be welcomed. Detailed applications (2 copies) including curriculum vitae, a recent small photograph and naming 3 referees should be sent by airmail to The Assistant Secretary, Box 4820, University PO, Papua New Guinea.

Applicants resident in UK should also send 1 copy to Inter-University Council, 29/31 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT. Further details are obtainable from either address. Closing date: 30 May, 1980.

LONDON EC1

THE CITY UNIVERSITY

ASSISTANT IN PHYSICAL RECREATION

Following the promotion of the present post-holder a vacancy has arisen for a suitably qualified person, with professional experience in physical education. Experience in the areas of basic training, Volleyball, Basketball and Swimming would be an advantage.

It is expected that this will be a three-year appointment with a possible extension for one further year.

Salary to be on the scale £2,148 to £3,150 p.a. inclusive according to qualifications and experience.

Application forms and further details from Mrs Jane Cameron, Secretary, Department of Physical Education, The City University, Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0HB. Telephone 253 1107 (24 hr. telephone).

DURHAM
THE UNIVERSITY

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN SOCIAL MEDICINE

Applications are invited for a temporary LECTURESHIP in Social Medicine tenable in the Department of Social Medicine, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, for two years from 1 October 1980 or 1 January 1981.

Applicants should have a strong commitment to research and to teaching Social Medicine to undergraduate medical students.

Salary scale £6,552 to £8,154 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Medical School, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH, to whom applications should be sent by 30 April 1980.

DURHAM
THE UNIVERSITY

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for the post of TEMPORARY LECTURER in Geography tenable for a period of two years from 1 October 1980. Qualifications will be considered as for the scale 2 Lecturer, but the salary will be on the scale £6,552 to £8,154 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, 38 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3EX, to whom applications should be sent not later than 30 April 1980.

DURHAM
THE UNIVERSITY

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for the post of TEMPORARY LECTURER in Geography tenable for two years from 1 October 1980. Qualifications will be considered as for the scale 2 Lecturer, but the salary will be on the scale £6,552 to £8,154 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, 38 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3EX, to whom applications should be sent not later than 30 April 1980.

EDINBURGH
THE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

Applications are invited for a TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP tenable for 1 year from 1 October 1980. It is the Department's intention that preference will be given to candidates who have a strong interest in Phonetics, or in Psycholinguistics, or in Sociolinguistics, but applications will be welcomed in all areas of Linguistics.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Department of Linguistics, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LL, to whom applications should be sent by 30 April 1980.

EDINBURGH
THE UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Applicants are invited for a three year research post on a project entitled "Mathematical Techniques in the Design of Telecommunications Systems". Industrial liaison will be provided by Standard Telecommunication Laboratories Ltd. The researcher will be based in Edinburgh but it is expected to spend about two months each year working with Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey, in Theoretical Computer Science, to familiarise with industrial models of concurrent and distributed computation, and to exchange both to apply this work and thus to assess and develop the models.

For further information write to R. Milner, Computer Science Department, University of Edinburgh, James Clerk Maxwell Building, King's Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, or phone 031-667 1081. Salary £5,652-£6,552 p.a. Please apply before 30th April. Please quote reference 3018.

ESSEX
THE UNIVERSITY

SENIOR LECTURER/READER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ART

Applications are invited for the post of SENIOR LECTURER/READER in the DEPARTMENT OF ART tenable from October 1980. Applicants should have an area of specialism in one of the following: European art and theory and have experience of both graduate and undergraduate teaching. Salary scale £10,410-£12,150 per annum.

Duties will be mainly concerned with the teaching of students in the Department of Art, with supervision of research students. Candidates should have a strong commitment to practical work in the visual arts.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, to whom applications should be sent by 30th April, 1980. Please quote reference No. 3233.

We hope to arrange to discuss the appointments at the meeting of the Court of the University to be held on 25th June, 1980.

EXETER
THE UNIVERSITY

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ENGLISH

Applications are invited for a temporary appointment to the staff of the English Department tenable from 1st October, 1980.

The successful candidate will be expected to tutor in Renaissance literature, and to do some lecturing in that or some other special field.

Salary within the range £6,052 to £6,052 per annum (Lecturer salary scale £6,052 to £10,484 per annum).

Further particulars may be obtained from Miss Doreen Watson, Northcote House, Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ, to whom applications should be sent by 30th April 1980. Please quote reference No. 3254.

EXETER
THE UNIVERSITY

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for a temporary LECTURESHIP in the Department of Economics for 12 months as from 1st October, 1980.

The salary will be within the Lecturer scale (£6,052 to £8,154 p.a.) plus £1,000 p.a. London Allowance.

It is hoped that the person appointed will be able to assist in the teaching of Econometrics at Social Studies and Second Year Micro and Macro Economics.

Further particulars may be obtained from Miss Doreen Watson, Northcote House, Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ, to whom applications should be sent by 30th April 1980. Please quote reference No. 3254.

EXETER
THE UNIVERSITY

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for a TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP in the Department of Economics for 15 months as from 1st September, 1980.

The salary will be within the Lecturer scale of £6,052 to £8,154 plus £1,000 p.a. London Allowance.

Further particulars may be obtained from Miss Doreen Watson, Northcote House, Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ, to whom applications should be sent by 30th April 1980. Please quote reference No. 3254.

HONG KONG
THE UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the University Library which will fall vacant on the retirement, on 30 September 1980, of Miss Muriel Somerville.

Annual salary (superannuation 15% of salary) on the scale HK$ 420,000 p.a. to HK$ 480,000 p.a. (approximately).

Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

At current rates, salaries up to will not exceed 25 per cent of gross income. Housing at a concessionary rent is available, and medical benefits are provided.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF or from the Hong Kong Liaison Office, Secretary's Office, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Applications should be sent to the Association by 2 May, 1980.

EXETER
THE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for the post of LECTURER in Physical Geography in the Department of Geography, tenable from 1st October, 1980.

Candidates should have a special interest in Geomorphology and should be competent in quantitative methods.

Commencing salary will be within the range £5,052-£6,052 p.a. on the salary scale £5,052-£10,484 p.a.

Further particulars may be obtained from Miss Doreen Watson, Northcote House, Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ, to whom applications should be sent by 30th April, 1980. Please quote reference 3253.

KENT
THE UNIVERSITY AT CANTERBURY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

LECTURER IN LAW

Applications are invited for a post of LECTURER IN LAW with effect from 1st October, 1980, or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful applicant will be required to teach European Law and some Private Law.

Salary, according to qualifications and experience, will be on the scale £5,052-£10,484. The initial appointment will be in the lower part of the scale.

Application forms (three copies) and further particulars may be obtained from Mr. J. K. Reilly, Senior Assistant Registrar, The Registry, The University, Canterbury, Kent, to whom completed application forms should be returned not later than Friday, 20th April, 1980. Please quote reference A7 80.

LONDON
THE UNIVERSITY
WYE COLLEGE

LECTURESHIP IN PLANT PATHOLOGY

Applications are invited for the post of LECTURER in PLANT PATHOLOGY in the Department of Biological Sciences. It is intended that the successful candidate will take up the post from 1st October, 1980 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applicants should have interests in the fungi of myco-logical plant pathology.

Applications should be sent in the Secretary, Wye College, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5AH, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The closing date for applications is end May, 1980.

MANCHESTER
THE UNIVERSITY

LECTURESHIP IN ACCOUNTING

Applications are invited for three posts from GRADUATES, professionally qualified accountants or persons with relevant industrial or commercial experience. No particular specialisation is required and applicants with interests in any of the following areas will be considered: financial accounting, management accounting, management information systems; finance; organisational behaviour; taxation; auditing; comparative international accounting, public sector accounting.

Salary range per annum from April 1981: £5,652 to £10,484. Superannuation.

Particulars and application forms (returnable by April 30th) from the Registrar, The University, Manchester M13 9PL. Quote ref.: 59/80/TIMES

MANCHESTER
THE UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN ACCOUNTING

Applications are invited for the post from Graduates in accounting, finance, economics, quantitative, computing, organisational, behavioural or related disciplines. Salary range from April 1981: £4,752 to £6,552 per annum. Superannuation.

Further particulars and application forms (returnable by April 30th) to whom, applications should be sent by 30th April 1980. Please quote ref.: 58/80/TIMES

MANCHESTER
THE UNIVERSITY

LECTURER IN PHILOSOPHY

Applications are invited for this post. Preference may be given to candidates with qualifications in Ethics or Philosophy of Science. Initial salary range: £6,052 to £8,154.

Particulars and application forms (returnable by April 30th) from the Registrar, The University, Manchester M13 9PL. Quote ref.: 70/80/TIMES

NEW ZEALAND
MASSEY UNIVERSITY
Palmerston North

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY

Applications are invited for the above appointment. The successful applicant will be the Department of Psychology. Although the appointment carries full university status, it is expected that the successful applicant will be required to teach some service and psychometrics. Similarly, the successful applicant will mainly be concerned with undergraduate teaching but the teaching of students in the graduate school will be given preference with opportunities to be given to candidates with suitable research interests in an applied area.

Salary scale: $NZ13,728 to $NZ19,584.

Further details of the position, including conditions of appointment, may be obtained from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PF or from the Registrar of the University.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar of the University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, by 31st March, 1980.

MIDDLESEX
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

LECTURESHIP IN SEWING TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited for the above post which the University intends to fill at an early date.

The Department is developing a new programme of undergraduate teaching which is associated with the Manufacturing and Allied Products Industry Training Board.

The successful candidate will have an opportunity to make a considerable contribution to this area with associated laboratory, industrial and research work.

Applicants should have an appropriate first degree with preferably research and/or industrial experience associated with garment manufacturing.

Salary scale £5,052 to £10,484 plus £740 London Allowance.

Application forms and further information about the post can be obtained from the Registration Department, Middlesex UB8 3PH or tel. Uxbridge 37188 ext. 445.

Closing date: 31st May 1980.

Interviews will be held in mid-June. If they wish, to discuss this appointment informally with Mr. J. F. H. Robinson (ext. 6021) at the University.

OXFORD
THE UNIVERSITY

ST. EDMUND HALL

FELLOWSHIP IN LAW

The College proposes to elect an OFFICIAL FELLOW and TUTOR in Law with effect from 1 October, 1980, or as soon as possible thereafter. Preference may be given to candidates whose interests lie outside the field of public law. The Fellowship will be associated with a CUF Lectureship with/on the commencement of the CUF Lectureship will be surrendered until 1st October, 1982, a stipend equivalent to the stipend payable to an Official Fellow holding a CUF Lectureship will nevertheless be payable from the date of appointment to the Official Fellowship.

Applications (which are not required in any particular form) giving particulars of qualifications and experience and the names of three referees should be sent by 1st May, 1980, to the Principal from whom further particulars may be obtained.

NEW ZEALAND
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Applications are invited for the following posts:

POLITICAL SCIENCE

LECTURESHIP in the School of POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION

from February 1981. The vacancies in the general area of international relations. The successful applicant will be expected to teach some courses in the second and third years of undergraduate work and to undertake research. In addition a capacity to teach an introductory course in communist systems may be an advantage. Duties may be in the nature of the position to Professor Maclean Clark, Chairman of the School in the University.

Closing date: 16 June, 1980.

CRIMINOLOGY

RESEARCH FELLOWS (two) in the INSTITUTE of CRIMINOLOGY. Fellows will have primary responsibility for one or more research projects of their own but will be expected to work as a team within the Institute and to participate in other research where appropriate. Applicants will have good academic qualifications in law and social sciences, preferably qualification in criminology and/or sociology and relevant experience in research work would be welcomed. The appointment initially for a period of three years, which may be extended to a maximum of five years from 1st October, 1980. Salary will be equivalent to that of lecturer or assistant lecturer, depending upon the successful applicant's qualifications and experience. Enquiries on the nature of the position to Professor Rupert Cross, Director of the Institute in the University.

Closing date: 16 June, 1980.

RESEARCH FELLOWS (two) in the INSTITUTE of CRIMINOLOGY. Fellows will have primary responsibility for one or more research projects of their own but will be expected to work as a team within the Institute and to participate in other research where appropriate. Applicants will have good academic qualifications in law and social sciences, preferably qualification in criminology and/or sociology and relevant experience in research work would be welcomed. The appointment initially for a period of three years, which may be extended to a maximum of five years from 1st October, 1980. Salary will be equivalent to that of lecturer or assistant lecturer, depending upon the successful applicant's qualifications and experience. Enquiries on the nature of the position to the Director of the Institute in the University.

Closing date: May 31, 1980.

Salaries: The salary scale for a senior lecturer is £8,297 to £10,780 where there is a bar at £9,538 p.a. For lecturers £3,531-£8,316. Fares paid to New Zealand.

Conditions of Appointment: Professionally qualified applicants obtain conditions of appointment and application form from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF.

WOLVERHAMPTON
THE POLYTECHNIC

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

LECTURER II/SENIOR LECTURER IN SYSTEMS ANALYSIS/DATA PROCESSING

Applications are invited to teach these subjects in our rapidly growing undergraduate Business Studies and a wide range of professional and degree courses.

Salary Scale: Lecturer II £5,191 to £6,669. Senior Lecturer £6,051 to £7,668 to £7,014.

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES

SENIOR LECTURER/ LECTURER GRADE II IN LAW

Required from 1st September 1980 to teach the full range of degree courses (full-time and part-time) and other degree and professional courses.

Salary Scale: Senior Lecturer £7,052 to £8,297, maximum Lecturer II £4,806 to £6,669.

The level of appointment will depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Application forms and further particulars regarding both posts from Personnel Department, The Polytechnic, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1LY. (24 hr. answerphone 27311 (0902 for STD).

BRIGHTON
THE POLYTECHNIC

FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

LECTURER II or SENIOR LECTURER IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Required to teach on a new degree course at present under development, and to undertake research. Interest in the sociology of science/applied sociology desirable.

Grade, qualifications and experience according to age and experience.

Further details and application form from the Personnel Officer, Brighton Polytechnic, Moulsecoomb, Brighton BN2 4AT. Tel. Brighton 693655, Ext. 2537. Closing date 14th April, 1980.

DUNDEE
THE UNIVERSITY

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTSHIP

Applications are invited for a research studentship, leading to a higher degree by dissertation in any field of political science. Candidates must either have, or expect to obtain, a first or second class honours degree in political science or a closely related subject.

Further information is available from Professor K. Newton, Department of Political Science, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN, with whom applications should be lodged by 30th April, 1980.

EDINBURGH
THE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SSRC STUDENTSHIP FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH IN COMPUTER-BASED EDUCATION

Applications are invited from Graduates (and prospective Graduates) who wish to read for a Ph.D. degree in computer based education. Current research interests within the Department include natural language processing, computational semantics, programming environments and environmental augmentation and enhancement, with particular interest in working with children with learning difficulties.

Preference will be given to candidates with a First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree in Computer Science, Mathematics or Physics with a strong interest in educational problems. Basic teaching, programming or other practical experience would also be an advantage.

Successful applicants will be nominated for earmarked SSRC Postgraduate Studentships.

Further information can be obtained by letter to Dr. J. A. M. Howe, Department of Artificial Intelligence, University of Edinburgh, Forrest Hill, Edinburgh EH1 2QL.

GLASGOW
THE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SSRC RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS

The Faculty of Social Sciences invites applications for SSRC Quota Awards for research leading to a Higher Degree in the following subjects starting in October 1980:

ECONOMIC HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITICS
SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES
TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
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Particulars from the Warden, to whom applications stating qualifications, research interests, and two referees, should be sent by 30th April 1980.

READING
THE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for a RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP for a fixed period of three years commencing 1st October, 1980 to study the use of examination results by appointers.

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The Fellow might review for a higher degree, and in first year be up to £5,166 p.a. (inclusive). USS superannuation.

Apply for further particulars, quoting ref. no. 218 to Personnel Officer, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AH.

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OXFORD
LADY MARGARET HALL

TUTORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN ENGLISH

The College proposes to elect to a Tutorial Fellowship in English with effect from 1st October 1980, or as soon as possible thereafter. Applicants should have proficient literature, including a knowledge of the period 1700-1900. The Fellowship is for men and women to hold in conjunction with a University lectureship, which, however, it is not expected will become available until 1st October 1982.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford OX2 6QA, to whom applications with a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and the names of three referees should be sent to reach him not later than 10th May, 1980.

Polytechnics

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Further details about this post may be obtained from the Personnel Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Horticulture.

Potential candidates are advised to submit as soon as possible full curriculum vitae, including previous education and degrees and the names and addresses of two referees. Applications should be sent to reach the Personnel Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Horticulture, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE not later than 30th April, 1980.

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Ltd. copies of which are available on request.

Polytechnics continued

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
THE POLYTECHNIC

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY

LECTURER II IN FILM STUDIES

Required to teach FILM HISTORY/THEORY to students on the B.A. (Hons.) (CNAA) History of Modern Art and Design Course, and to make up-to-date contribution to the Division's programme of work for students on the B.A. Creative and Performing Arts Courses as well as the B.A. Art and Design courses.

Burnham F.E., Lecturer II, £4,806 to £7,206 per annum, for further details and application form, returnable by 18th April, 1980, please call our 24-hour telephone answering service (0632) 329126), or send a stamped addressed envelope to the Personnel Officer, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, Ellison Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST.

Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education

DORSET INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the following posts:

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES GRADE VI

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LII/SL IN CATERING SCIENCE

Further details and application form from: Director, Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Wallisdown Road, POOLE. BH12 5BB. Closing date 18th April, 1980.

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
HOPWOOD HALL MIDDLETON MANCHESTER

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

LECTURER II/SENIOR LECTURER

A vacancy exists in the above department for a person to contribute to the department in the following fields:

Industrial Design
Graphics and Visual Communication

A candidate interested in the methodologies of teaching Product Design to Degree level would be preferred. Applicants should have the following qualifications: B.A. (Hons); D.E.S.R.C.A. or the equivalent. The successful candidate will be expected to teach the above range of subjects to B.Ed.(Hons) and B.A./B.Sc. Level; and partake in the teaching programmes of the In-Service Courses (B.Ed.), Retraining Courses; and the Specialist Course in Design and Technology for students with industrial experience.

The Department of Design and Technology is very well equipped and is housed in a modern and expanding Design Centre.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Principal, De La Salle College of Higher Education, Hopwood Hall, Middleton, Manchester M24 4XH.

Completed application forms must be received by Friday, 25th April, 1980.

Administration

HULL
THE UNIVERSITY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for appointment to the post of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT in the REGISTRAR'S DEPARTMENT. Candidates should have a degree, diploma or equivalent and should preferably have some previous administrative experience. The post would be particularly suitable for a younger man or woman with some background of employment seeking a career in University administration. An interest in sports organisation would be a positive recommendation.

Salary will be on the Grade 4 scale, £4,404 to £5,769 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, to whom applications with a curriculum vitae should be sent by 30th April, 1980.

NEWCASTLE upon TYNE
THE UNIVERSITY

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Applications are invited from graduates for the post of Assistant Registrar. Candidates should be under 30 at 1st October 1980 or be over 30 but not more than 40 years and have had considerable administrative experience, preferably in a University establishment. The successful applicant will be responsible for a range of duties connected with one of the Faculties and also for a group of committees, which the postholder is general responsible to.

Salary will be at an appropriate point on the Administrative Grade 4 scale (£5,427 to £10,384 per annum according to age, qualifications and experience. The post will be available from 1st July, 1980.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, The Registrar's Office, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU. Applications (3 copies), with the names of 3 referees, should be submitted together with names of 3 referees, should be submitted to 18 April, 1980.

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London SW7 5NE
Ref.: AS/80
Telephone (01) 584 8827/8/9

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Candidates should write to:

The Registrar
University of Singapore
Kent Ridge, Singapore 0511

giving details of curriculum vitae and also the names and addresses of three referees.

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Overseas continued

CANADA

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Exmouth

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Application forms and further particulars are available from: Chief Education Officer (BR1), County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QG. Closing date for receipt of applications: Wednesday, May 7th, 1980.

DEVON

Research Posts

GLASGOW
THE UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

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The appointments, which are financed by the Social Sciences Research Council, are for three years commencing July 1, 1980, for the senior Research Assistant and October 1, 1980, for the Research Assistant. It is expected that the senior Research Assistant will have previous research experience and that the research Assistant will be a recent graduate or graduate with a degree in History, 1980, with a good honours degree.

Salary (each position) on the scale for Research Assistants on Grade 1A (or Research and Analytical) Grade within the range £5,055 to £6,705 (under review) and will be appointed on the scale £3,705 to £5,055 pro rata. Superannuation benefits include membership of the USS Scheme.

Applications, together with the names of two referees should be forwarded not later than 14th April, 1980, to Professor T. C. Smout, Department of Economic History, The University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, from whom further information can be obtained.

Please quote ref. no. 46/80.

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This is a senior appointment within the Council's organisation. The Registrar is responsible for the management and operation of a unit involved in the work of validating degree and other courses in engineering and technological subjects through the related committee structure; for liaison with, and advice to, institutions presenting courses with professional institutions and other bodies and with Chairmen and members of the Boards and Panels involved in this work.

Applicants should be well qualified academically and should possess appropriate experience in higher education at a senior level, experience in industry would also be an advantage.

The salary, on appointment, will be within the scale £10,737 per annum to £13,233 per annum (under review) including London Weighting.

Further particulars may be obtained from:—
Assistant Secretary (Personnel),
Council for National Academic Awards,
344/354 Grey's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BP
Tel.: 01-278 4411

to whom applications giving details of qualifications and experience and the names and addresses of two referees should be submitted by 23 April, 1980.

Polytechnics continued

PLYMOUTH POLYTECHNIC

The Plymouth Business School Department of Business Studies

LECTURER II
LAW

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Application forms returnable by Friday, 25th April, 1980, can be obtained with further details from the Personnel Office, Plymouth Polytechnic, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA.

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The way ahead for modern languages

While hoping that Ken Burgin's article on the British attitude to foreign languages (*THES*, March 27) is intended to be ironic, and that every point he makes should be read as intending to say the opposite of what it appears to mean, I cannot resist a pang or two of doubt; he may just possibly mean what he says, fatuous though most of it is, so that perhaps a word or two of refutation might not come amiss.

My first anxiety is about the purpose of the article. What is Mr Burgin trying to prove? That we should simply all give up the struggle where languages are concerned? The article reads at times like a response to someone else's clarion call to arms on the subject of language teaching; where was "the idea that the educational system is going to be galvanized into linguistic competence" originally mooted? The idea is know, because I'd like to support it.

And there is a case to be made out. Unfortunately we have to deal with half-baked notions, like the one also supported by Mr Burgin, that the best second language for us British to be learning is French – it isn't, it never has been, and it never will be. It is hard, it is too far removed linguistically from English, and it is too little spoken in the world to be worth much effort spending on it. The only reason we keep on forcing children in secondary schools to learn it is that the French-teaching industry in this country is self-perpetuating.

Mr Burgin makes out a case against the audio-visual language teaching revolution, and I share his view, but the revolution was important, not for what it achieved, but for the fact that it was there at all. It is over now. But it has achieved two great objectives; it has made teachers think about what they are doing and how they are doing it in a way never before attempted, and it has satisfied a great many people regarding the view – also stated by Mr Burgin, and again I agree with him – that there is no easy way to learn a language properly.

Now that the revolution is over, we must move on. We must accept that language laboratories are a poor substitute for small classes, and we must persuade the Government that with the falling numbers in schools, a real opportunity presents itself to organize language teaching on a small-group basis, trying as we do this to find ways of teaching other things to the same children in large groups, so that on average we maintain an acceptable pupil-teacher ratio.

Within the content of language classes, we must strike a balance between endless oral structure-drills and the older style of translation-type exercises. And we must let English back into foreign language classes; it has a place there, and it must be allowed to resume it.

Statistics, in support of arguments, always get me reaching for my gun, and Mr Burgin's meaningless use of percentages of second language learners studying English is the most extreme example of the aimlessness of his whole article.

The point Mr Burgin should have made – but he can't, because there are probably no figures available – is that the percentage of foreign *populations* actually learning English as *a* foreign language is . . . ?

I suspect that there are far fewer of them than Mr Burgin would have us believe. I visit France every year, and among the ordinary people I find very few English speakers. Even in that country, my own average command of French is often admired. When a Briton addresses foreign nationals in *their* language, he takes them on, on equal terms, or even, if he is good enough, to his own advantage. It is possible that our Prime Minister's notable failure to make any real impression on European leaders has something to do with the fact that she is at a psychological disadvantage, especially since in addition to being unable to speak any of their languages, she actually speaks her own rather less well than some of them?

Which leads us to the point – also made by Mr Burgin, but not understood by him in its full significance – that there is a very important educational value in learning to communicate in a second language, because, if you are taught properly, you learn so much more about your native language, and about language in general, in the process.

Linguistics is steadily becoming a major science, largely as a reaction of the educational Luddites who seek to impede its progress. It is changing our thinking about linguistic communication, and helping to restore the balance vs. simple usage in recent years by the advent of semi-literate teachers at all stages of our educational process, who see the abandonment of prescriptive approaches to teaching both English and foreign languages as an excuse for not teaching kids how language works.

As a teacher of foreign languages in higher education, specializing in teaching Spanish from scratch, I am weary of having to start explaining to 18-year-olds how the articulation of the sentence works. I don't care what name you use to refer to a verb, but you've got to call it something, or you can't talk about it at all!

But, finally, to look to the future, as modern language degree courses falter, as the numbers of A level modern languages candidates declines, as the DES, late in the day as usual, but better late than never, starts proposing that even polytechnics with no previous experience in language and secretarial studies courses should consider converting their degree courses to programmes of study for bi-lingual secretaries, relying on those far-sighted few who have been doing precisely that kind of work for years to build on their experience with fresh developments, what hope can we hold out against the depressing blandness of Mr Burgin's upside down Micawberism?

I suggest we must continue to encourage young people to study a foreign language alongside other subjects, as a continuing process through their educational careers, so that whether they eventually become engineers or scientists, lawyers or doctors, accountants or secretaries, they have some knowledge of at least one other of the world's most-spoken languages to call on.

Mr Burgin, of course, makes no reference to any of this. It is clearly unaware of the potential being uncovered by those of us still concerned to enable the British to be a little less insular, not to say xenophobic, in the matter of language communication.

One change we are making in our approach is very important; we are a little less interested now than heretofore in turning out "linguists". The idea that studying a modern language by itself constitutes a whole education has lost currency of late, and the best we can recommend now is that, wherever possible, language options are offered on other specialist degree courses, to open up for the student of other disciplines the possibility of travelling and working abroad. That is what other nations have been doing for generations, and it is still not too late for us to learn by their example.

Hugh Probyn

The author is head of the school of language and humanities at Preston Polytechnic.

Don's diary

Teaching

I am teaching three courses this semester, the usual load for an assistant professor at my university. One is a basic course in public speaking, the second an upper level undergraduate course in persuasion, and the third a graduate course in rhetorical history and theory.

The public speaking students are giving persuasive speeches this week, or at least that is their assignment. A distressing number seem unable to develop a coherent, organized, well supported argument. I am videotaping this round of speech and going over the speech with each student. With the evidence of their crimes before us, it is easier to convince students that their public speaking has room for betterment.

I hand back the midterm examinations to the persuasion class Monday. The scores ranged from 45 per cent to 94 per cent. I remind those students who did poorly that I am available outside of class for consultation on future assignments. Some will take me up on the offer, but others are quite willing to accept low grades rather than do the work necessary for high ones. Wednesday includes reports from the assigned group projects. The students are to develop and implement persuasive campaigns. One group is attempting to persuade people to sign up for training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, another is working on behalf of John Anderson (a candidate for the Republican Party presidential nomination), and a third is working to convince the university to enlarge the campus recreation building. The groups seem off to a good start.

The rhetoric course is really too large this semester, enrolling 19 students. This week we consider Tacitus, Lucian, St Augustine, Bede and Alcuin, part of an attempt to summarize 1,500 years of the rhetorical tradition in 15 weeks. I am not satisfied with the course. It covers material that ought to be the common property of students in our field, but the haste with which we cover it raises worries.

Part of the problem is financial. We support PhD students for two years. Three semesters and a summer are spent on course work. The fourth semester and second summer are given over to qualifying examinations and a start on the dissertation. Thereafter most students have to secure employment (and to our satisfaction, they have all found academic employment in recent years), the dissertation unfinished. A third year of support would allow better course preparation as well as time to complete the dissertation. Given the financial realities, however, such is not practical.

Students

Since I do part of the department's undergraduate advising, about 100 students look to me for assurance that they are meeting degree requirements. The number dropping by is particularly large now, since registration for the summer and fall terms is about to begin (though not until March). Those who are about to graduate want a final check of their programmes. Others, as yet undecided, are considering speech communication as a major. They want to know what we do and whether our graduates find jobs.

Other students are from my classes. Several want to discuss speeches they are to give next week. One has chosen to speak on chemical and biological methods of warfare. I mistakenly assume he is against such weapons, until he explains his position most fully. We discuss ways of getting his thesis across effectively. A good graduate student wonders why she must report on two obscure and (to her) boring figures in the rhetorical tradition. Another graduate student is distressed because the rhetoric course covers too much ground. Just about the time he gets interested in the Pre-Socratics, we have moved on to Cicero. I sympathize, but remind him it is possible to continue to study outside of class.

Most of these discussions occur in a cramped office, the common lot of professors in my building. I plan one day to find the architect responsible and stamp them to death, best substitute for a rack I can find. I am sure most of my building's inhabitants will cheerfully pay the sums for the privilege of turning the crank a notch.

Departmental and university affairs

The bi-weekly faculty meeting falls on Wednesday. We consider a proposal to change the list of courses required of all our PhD students. After extended discussion, sentiments split rather evenly between two proposals. The first requires a course in communication theories and models or one in the rhetorical tradition. The second proposal requires both courses. They agree on other requirements. No consensus is reached, so the chairman calls a special meeting for 7 am Thursday. As usual we are acting under the pressure of deadlines – programme changes must be made by Friday if they are to appear in the next university catalogue.

The Thursday meeting again fails to secure consensus. Several new proposals are made, and we take an inconclusive straw vote. The chairman, after momentary puzzlement, announces that we will implement the first proposal. After the only vehement protest, so his decision was probably a wise one, though I have argued that students graduating without both courses have serious deficiencies.

A quixotic proposal I have made is postponed due to lack of time. Like many American departments we dropped our PhD language requirement some years back.

I considered running a mock campaign for the chancellorship this year. My campaign platform included a pledge to make certain mistakes (which would separate me in one important regard from previous administrators) as well as a plan to transform the president's mansion into a home for both young and retired professors. Alas, the press of other business prevented my campaign, much to the relief of some colleagues.

Research

This term I have no classes on Tuesday and Thursday, and try to save major parts of those days for research. My current project is a study of the German Nazi school which trained public servants through a correspondence course, coming along well. Much relevant material survived the war, and is now available on microfilm, though apparently no one has noticed it previously.

Tuesday I spend in the office, typing up past research notes, catching up on paperwork, and dealing with students who discover me in their regular haunts. Working in the office is always difficult, since interruptions are frequent and my powers of concentration are deplorably limited. After the faculty meeting Thursday was undisturbed in a tiny, but blessed, hidden, carrel. Most of my research work gets done there.

Reflection

It is interesting that the banes of a week, put down on paper, look much less satisfying than the week in fact, was.

Randall Bytwerk

The author is assistant professor of speech communication at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Upon view will appear next week as usual.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dangers to academic freedom

Sir,—Kenneth Minogue (THES, March 7) pinpoints the danger to university independence that can come from those who confuse independence with "privilege"; the drive to "equalize" is a gift to the managerial types to be found among those whom he rightly calls "exponents of servility". In the same issue John Griffiths writes eloquently on the need to ensure that current (and, I would add, future) financial stringencies do not lead to new exercises in *dirigisme* and do not further enhance the power of a non-scholarly bureaucracy parasitic upon higher education.

On this matter their ideas seem to converge: there will be many who would welcome (somewhat circumspectly) the entry of Professor Griffiths into the anti-planning circle. The grounds for circumspection are increased by the fact that he prefaces his views on current difficulties by a long condemnation of *The Attack on Higher Education* which, as some of your readers may recall, I wrote in 1977 after the deliberations of a distinguished study group convened by the ISC (Institute for the Study of Conflict).

I have lost count of the occasions on which your contributors have used your space to review *The Attack* and show their pain (and, on occasion, their pleasure) at our views about Marxist influences in higher education. Many more absorbing works have received only one short notice in your columns: so I suppose that the ISC group should be gratified at such repeated attention. My own feeling is that nothing is normally less rewarding than to rake over last year's debates. But since John Griffiths has done so – and last silence be construed as assent – let me offer some further thoughts on the matter.

Firstly, few of our critics seem to understand that a critique of Marxist endeavours in higher education can be intended as a defence of academic freedom: or that to dissent from Marxism is an exercise in academic freedom. There are countries in which the propagation of Marxist ideology is prohibited by law: there are other countries where criticism of Marxism is visited with severe penalties. Such countries do not know academic freedom in the sense in which my study-group understood these words.

Our report sought to show that in several fields of study Marxist authors in Britain had acquired disproportionate influence – although their writings and emphases had produced slipshod, misleading as well as contentious nonsense.

Most of the scholarly Marxists and scholarly "damp-liberals" who, without necessarily reading it, campaigned against the report would, I am sure, admonish or fail any student who always were so poor and so seemingly averse to alternative approaches. Indeed I know of a book in which the impeccably Marxist author singles out for magisterial rebuke one of the Marxist works which the ISC report itself cited. He has not been abused or pilloried for so doing. Can it be the case that critical license was permitted to a follow-Marxist but denied to those who believed that, in certain fields, the impact of Marxist ideology had increased, increasing, and needed to be diminished?

Let me take up a second of John Griffiths's worries. We reported evidence (freely available in published sources) of organized Marxist activities in higher education and of the persons who took part in them. Had we given no such indication we would have been challenged to provide it. We had other evidence, confidential in character, which we had no desire or intention to publish.

As a result of the world-wide attention the report received, further evidence, quite unsolicited, has come to us; and in each case absolute confidentiality has been respected and maintained. The people whose activities we discussed in 1977 were not, one assumes, ashamed of themselves. They had a right to engage in them – and other people (including the "consumers" of higher education) had a right to know of such engagement.

Griffiths is worried that knowledge of perfectly legal, though not always admirable, activities, will damage job prospects. He also, so he writes, would like "to abolish all ranks (professors, readers, senior lecturers)". He may, therefore, have mixed feelings if I tell him that, since 1977, at least one of those mentioned has reached the hated pinnacle of professorial power.

Thirdly, there is another side to the coin of academic freedom. The ISC group was well aware that "contentious" non-Marxist (or anti-Marxist) beliefs have been barriers to appointment of promotion. The statement "X is an enemy of the people" has, I can assure you, been explicitly and successfully used in this way. Professor Griffiths would not want us to "name" the person or the appointment in regard to which this crude ploy was successful: nor – for it is equally confidential – would the members of the ISC group wish to list the cases where subtler gambits of "disinformation" from the Left have been gullibly accepted – especially by "Establishment" "liberal" figures who feel guilty about their privileged youth.

Happily – and not least in the social sciences – there are many signs that Left-wing humbug is now seen for what it is – witness Digby Anderson's article in *THES*, March 14. And, however much assent John Griffiths's doubts about *dirigisme* may receive, this cannot make his CAPD group more attractive or its larger purposes more congenial. For, since his article was on the theme of academic freedom, your readers may want to be reminded that CAPD's conception of academic freedom and democracy, in the words of its spokesmen, derives "from explicit opposition to the larger structure of our society as it is today".

Yours sincerely,
JULIUS GOULD,
381 Derby Road,
Nottingham.

Food for thought

Sir,—While there was much food for thought in Rudolf Klein's "The Social Policy Man: Priest or Pragmatist?" (*THES*, February 15), I fear that Professor Klein was too carried away by his own self-confessed pragmatism, in spite of also warning against the dangers of imposing one's own values. As Klein says, social policy is concerned with the *just* society, but it would never have come into existence but for the acknowledged *failures* of existing social systems to be just. These failures are objective, and should be tackled in an objective way.

I think that Klein is too impressed by apparent paradox when he claims that "the study of social policy, it is tempting to argue, is an industry whose raw material is social problems". This is of course nonsense. "Multiply the numbers engaged in it, and you will multiply the number of social problems", says Klein, failing to notice the very real difference between creating and observing problems.

Given its concern with the just society it is a merit, not a failure, of social policy that it is an eclectic study, and Klein's quest for a "paradigm" is merely a ready prompt to latch on to a new unmodeled concept. Klein's treatment of value questions exhibits a related outmodedness. He supposes that value questions can only be tackled by examining one's own and other people's values, which is a quick way to relativism and the supposition that one can be only a priest or a pragmatist. But this is a false dilemma: the questions of the nature of and road towards the just society are objective questions, and answering of which requires a hard and rational combination of thinking—both philosophical and empirical, assuming they can be separated —and action.

Action is needed because *of course* we will need a political and economic transformation of society if we are to overcome the problems in the present system. That these problems are inherent is shown by Klein's point that the demand for welfare is inversely proportional to the ability of society to provide it. How can you overcome *that* without changing the system?

What is useful in Klein's article is that he reminds socialists that a welfare state is not an end in itself, the final state of social and political action. So long as the present system *fails* there must be a welfare state, and an adequate one, but it does not follow that there could not be a different system for meeting human needs, both material and cultural. Rational thought and action should be directed towards such a system, and those who study social policy should also direct their activities towards it, if they do not want to be accused of making a comfortable living from the poverty and suffering of others.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BELSEY,
Department of Philosophy, University College, Cardiff.

Banda's Malawi

Sir,—In his examination of academic freedom in the University of Malawi, Professor Hunnings has seriously misrepresented the situation that currently prevails within Dr Banda's Malawi. Your contributor quite correctly relates the country's overall policies to the problem of academic freedom. He has, however, uncritically stated these policies and thus provided a distorted and misleadingly favourable impression of Dr Banda's regime.

Professor Hunnings draws attention to Malawi's "determination to develop the country by pragmatic policies" and its "steadfast refusal to accept aid from any member of the Communist bloc". It is surprising that these two strategies are cited as examples of pragmatism. Indeed the proponents of apartheid could make no more pragmatic claim. Must his acceptance of aid or other forms of assistance "is conditional upon the absence of unacceptable political attitudes" South Africa has provided enormous quantities of aid to Malawi (for example, a recent loan of £18m for "general economic development"), and has gained formidable political strings as a result.

In 1971 a South African Minister conceded that Malawi had established military links with Pretoria, describing the country as "our most forward departure point in the fight against guerrilla activity. Frequently South Africans are seconded to the Malawi government. For instance, between 1969 and 1973 the Malawi Minister of Information was Mr D. J. Van der Spuy, recently the author of a ludicrous attack on the activities of Amnesty International called *Amnesty for Terrorists*.

Finally, I find it hard to restrain a cynical response to Professor Hunnings's concern for the "liberal traditions inseparable from the idea of a university". Emanating from South Africa one cannot fail to hear a distinctly hollow ring. Finding academic freedom in Malawi more possible than is "commonly supposed" matches a shade too nearly with Pretoria's "official" soft-line on Banda's excesses.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID J. WARD
(Researcher on Southern Africa),
24 Grove Road,
Barnes, London SW13

UCCA and priority

Sir,—Mr Eric Robinson is reported (*THES*, March 14) as complaining that "clearing houses like UCCA discriminate against immobile students (meaning principally women) by failing to guarantee them priority for places in institutions near home".

It is not UCCA's business to guarantee anyone a place or priority, whether near home or anywhere else.

Whether a university would wish to give preference over other applicants to one who must restrict her choice to a university near her home is entirely for the university to decide. If it does so decide, whether for academic or non-academic reasons, there is nothing in the UCCA rules or procedures that would prevent it.

Mr. Robinson, who does not appear to have direct experience of the UCCA system, ought not to make public statements about it without checking his facts.

Yours faithfully,
L. R. KAY,
Secretary,
Universities Central Council on Admissions.

More letters to the editor appear on the next page

Good and bad sociology

Sir,—Much as I enjoyed Digby Anderson's polemic (*THES*, March 14) he cannot be allowed to get away with equating good research with quantitative sociology, and bad research with qualitative sociology. Despite the weight of his criticism of Marxist media studies, "qualitative sociology" covers a great deal more than that. For example, conversational analysis or ethnography are two areas where rigorous research is being produced. It may make sense to use the term quantitative sociology for work based on numerical evidence, but qualitative sociology is a catchall title for several different methods and styles of work, some rigorous and others equally deserving the scourge of Anderson's critique.

The most important common feature of the qualitative *sociologies* is that they are unpopular with policymakers. Survey research deals in hard numbers: it is therefore perceived as "scientific", and so worthy of funding. Other methods of research are less acceptable, not just because they are sometimes abused, but because they are not so recognizable as "science" according to positivist canons. As a result, funds are less forthcoming, although contrary to popular belief among qualitative sociologists, the SSRC survey and Social Affairs Unit Committee does not have a record of discrimination against "softer" methods.

It would be a pity if the issues of funding and utility of research findings turned only on the package that constitutes "sociological research". Sociology finds itself in a difficult position—and Anderson is right that we are in some difficulty—because there has been a lack of rigorous training at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Without the discipline became established in the late 1960s and early 1970s, its rapid expansion sucked in many people without higher degrees (or whose postgraduate experience was purely a theoretical or library based exercise) or without successfully completing an apprenticeship as a research assistant.

This lack of training, combined with the Messianic fervour of a generation reared at the height of radical student politics, was a poor foundation for the new British sociology. Our inheritance is not just a problem of too much theory, or too much Marxism, or too much media study: it is also a mundane, mental lack of technical rigour in much of what we practise, and an unwillingness to exercise the tough, extensive and effective criticism which Anderson advocates.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF PAYNE,
Dean of Faculty of Social Science,
Plymouth Polytechnic.

Early retirement

Sir,—With reference to the articles on premature retirement (*THES*, February 29) and the correspondence in your issue dated March 14, the following points also appear relevant:

(1) USS is a nationally administered scheme providing members with an equivalent pattern of benefits. Premature retirement benefits are to be paid along with basic retirement benefits; with individual institutions meeting the cost of the premature retirement portion. But, because of cost considerations, members at different institutions may not receive equivalent premature retirement benefits and, clearly, from your recent survey on the financial effects of the present situation, universities and university colleges may be differently placed.

(2) Some institutions have a retirement age later than 65, e.g. age 67. In these cases there is the question of compensation in respect of service prospects until the later age.

(3) The relationship between prospective premature retirement benefits, and the ill-health retirement arrangements (for older members of staff the ill-health added years could be up to 6!). This may possibly result in alternative full premature retirement benefits not being available.

(4) Premature retirement provisions for members of Modified USSU are still under consideration.

Yours faithfully,
W. FARRAR
University of Keele.

Theory and practice

Sir,—Cedric Cullingford *A question of in-service balance*, March 7) claims that all that educational theory has to do in order to become that good thing, a subject in its own right, is to seize it subject to that title and examine that can be used". And indeed (he writes) there is such a subject: the study of child development and the child's responses to learning.

Just this particular empirical mountain is there, is convenient for Mr Cullingford's case. It may, in any case, be not a bad mountain for teachers to spend some time on. But are these good enough reasons for us all to rush out and climb it and claim it as the whole of "education"?

Mr Cullingford seems to be making two implicit claims. The first is that no research and study other than *empirically-based* research and study will improve teachers' professional competence. The second is that of *all* empirically-based research and study, *only* research and study relating to child development and children's learning will improve teachers' professional competence. Does Mr Cullingford indeed wish to claim these two things? If so, on what grounds? On what grounds would he seek to exclude primarily *non-empirical* pursuits such as reflection and the exercise of judgment? On what grounds would he do away with non-psychological empirical studies such as history or sociology.

One way to climb the highest mountain is to have removed all the others, but that requires planning permission.

Yours faithfully,
C. D. HILL,
Polytechnic of North London

Does art really need history?

In 1963, when I first started teaching art history, it, together with commentary studies, had just been introduced as a compulsory 15 per cent of the new Diploma in Art and Design. There was considerable controversy about how to teach what is essentially an academic subject to students primarily concerned with a practical training, and I was both intrigued and exasperated by the prejudices which were often displayed about academic as opposed to practical pursuits.

Now, after 16 years of trial and error, it is proposed to make the quantity of art history and related subjects more flexible, but some art schools fear that the CNAA (the Council for National Academic Awards) will not award degree status to art and design courses which do not contain a sufficient amount of what is called academic content. Why should this be? Are historians need no practical art training to gain an equivalent qualification in history of art or design? What is it which is thought to be intrinsically more valuable about a theoretical subject as opposed to a practical one?

It is said that the artist/designer needs a knowledge of the art of the past in order to see his own work in that context, especially if he is going to teach others; the ability to organize his thoughts and write them down clearly will necessarily lead to a more articulate approach to his practical work. This may well be true; most great artists of the past, with one or two notable exceptions have been able to think and write clearly about their ideas.

But then, could it not equally well be argued that the art historian would gain enormously in practice and insight if he were to study the practical side of his subject? I have recently taken up drawing and painting and have found it a great help to gain first-hand experience of some of the processes and technique artists use in order to understand better the problems they are up against.

Similarly, one could say, why is it not considered necessary for the study of English literature that students should at least try writing poetry or stories in order to develop a deeper understanding of the writer's art? After all, it is known to be a good thing for authors to read widely in order to comprehend literary skills.

I believe one possible answer to these questions lies in a wider context than just that of art and art history, in the idea of a hierarchy of subjects based on the concept that academic subjects are somehow socially more desirable than practical ones. The origins of this can be traced right back to the social hierarchy of Plato's Republic, or to the English public school system with its education for gentlemen who "did". It is perpetuated in the state school system whose curriculum are still dominated by the requirements of universities, who continue to value exam results in academic subjects more than in practical ones.

Arising from this is the fact that academic subjects are thus looked upon as accountable and so there is never a right or a complete answer to their problems. For instance, it is rare for the examiner of an academic subject to give full marks, but in the field of skilled jobs and practical knowledge there is usually a "right" solution. This applies particularly in the world of industry as opposed to the world of universities, where every process must be accountable. Add to this the fact that the image of industry is old-fashioned and there is another reason why the academic side may be perceived as superior to the practical one.

The need to make education in schools more relevant to the world of industry and technology was raised by Mr Callaghan and Mrs Williams when they initiated the Great Debate on Education two years ago. Several teachers I have talked to say that much is being done in comprehensive schools to bring academic and practical subjects together.

The practical side of life has so much to offer both academic and vice versa if only each side could treat the other as an equal rather than a rival. This is especially true in fields like art and art history where there should be so much common ground to start with.

My proposal would therefore that requirement. The proposal, certain to be defeated, is viewed with amusement by many of my colleagues, who consider a second language an unnecessary hurdle on the path to the PhD.

The uneasy relationship between art and art history is also reflected in society at large in another way, in our curiously unreflective attitude to the past. In the first place, we reject the experience of previous generations on the grounds that knowledge and information are developing so fast that the past rapidly becomes irrelevant.

This is then accompanied by a kind of undigested or indigestible nostalgia expressed in an almost obsessive conservation and preservation of the past on the one hand and in the imitation of 1940s clothes or 1930s pop music on the other.

Similarly, in many art schools today, necessarily immature art students are not expected to allow their work to develop from experience nor to study traditional methods in any depth, but are reared instead to cultivate originality and to become immediately members of the *avant garde*. When we cannot come together to learn from one another's experience in whatever field it may be then surely there must be something wrong.

Mary Acton

Laurie Taylor



"My God, Gordon, you're not actually going to run round the streets like that are you? Not our streets anyway. Couldn't you catch a bus and do it somewhere else?"

"What on earth is wrong with an evening run round the block?"

"Well, I don't want to interfere with your civil liberties, my petal, but in all honesty the sight of a fully grown professor of comparative linguistics shuffling up and down Rosemount Crescent in stained Marks and Spencer underwear and a pair of silk shorts with a V-shaped slit up the side is quite enough to convince even the most permissive members of our community that the university is now a breeding ground for the worst kind of sexual pervert."

"I really don't see your point, Sheila. It's only standard running gear. More or less Adidas. Apart from the vest. You can see it on television almost any Saturday of the year."

"I'm certain you can, my honeybun, but a passing glimpse of such attire from the grandstand of an athletic stadium is a very different experience from a full-frontal exposure to it on the pavement outside one's own house. I mean it wouldn't be so bad if you actually ran down the street. But as we know from the similar experiment you undertook last Easter, your typical performance is a weird mixture of that high-strided jog which on good days can just about carry you past dawdling pedestrians, and those frequent pauses for breath when you pretend to be tying your shoe-laces."

"Really, Sheila, if you're going to be superior about my quite reasonable attempts to get fit for the summer hols you could at least be accurate. Running was two years ago. Last Easter I embarked on a short spell of intensive swimming practice."

"So you did, my little flower. Middle-headed me. But much the same, wasn't it? Long evenings in March and February complaining that the students were getting younger every year, a sudden interest in a postgraduate with some unlikely name like Ingrid Prushkick — 'The only intelligent student we've had for a long time' (She actually seemed to like my book for the right reasons.' Isn't there a refreshing quality about the thought-process of the young and inexperienced — and then it was out with trunks and kitchen towel and down to Kenwood Road twice a week for a couple of lengths and a shower. No great athletic advance as I recall. Merely a sordid incident with some little water-wings children who got in your way and you were struggling to finish your second length at the shallow end. War and a nasty attack of athlete's foot."

"Well, somehow's got to get fit for the holidays. Can't have another three weeks' Venice ignoring the Carpaccios and you moaning that I've a 'lie down' in the afternoon."

"Mind you, I knew we were starting all over again when I saw you gritting your teeth and trying to hold in your stomach at the end of term graduate soiree. It's not the flaxen-haired one with the crooked teeth is it?' *Wise Hello Professor*. I was wondering if you'd seen their new book on structuralism by Sturrock. It's got a place on Dervish's bookshelf." She looked at us. If she could do with a bit of exercise herself. Dear God, what is it about spring that makes all you aged dons feel so frisky?"

"Well, I'm off. Hold the watch will you. Usual 9 and 15 on the yes/no?"

"Yes please, light of my life, and do remember to plant them up your vase or the bean sprouts go soggy."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Few sprang to defend the Oxford English course

Sir,—On the qualitative evidence of the arguments advanced in the Oxford English Literature debate (*THES*, March 21) perhaps we should not be surprised that none of Mr Schmidt's colleagues attempted to assist in his defence of the Oxford course. Clearly they, at least, perceived that their faculty's approach to English is indefensible.

However, Mr Schmidt has unwittingly provided the answer to the problem. One defence he offers of the Oxford system is that a tutor's unwillingness to "find out about structuralist poetics, formalism or hermeneutic theory", will "provide the determined student with a tool for expanding his own resources". The argument seems to be that the tutor's intransigence will necessitate the student preparing for an exam without tutorial guidance, thereby enhancing those qualities of independent scholarship so prized by the Oxford English Literature faculty. The obvious conclusion to be drawn is that, in the interests of education, all teaching of English at Oxford should cease immediately.

As a contribution to this pedagogic breakthrough, I shall forward to Mr Schmidt the names of my best A level students, whose entry into Balliol should be assured by my refusal, henceforth, to discuss with them any aspect of English Literature in which they show particular interest or aptitude.

Yours faithfully,
G. J. SHURGOLD,
Oxford College of Further Education.

Sir,—Since I am at Oxford I will have the opportunity of asking Cecil Schmidt personally exactly what he thinks the "integral wholeness" of English Literature is, and why he thinks that organic metaphors and tautological statistics are an adequate form of argument against the case that literary study here should be informed and structured by enquiry into theoretical premises, rather than being just a matter of silent readers in quiet rooms. Since I am a student, however, my enquiry will carry little weight.

Therefore, I would be glad to see Mr Schmidt confronted with the reactions of professional academics to hearing the work of teaching structured and theorized courses, courses in which Joint studies, structuralist poetics and literary theory are not regarded as "inevitably diminishing", "fashionable flies" and "grandiose subjection", described as "fashion and abstraction", which the steady tide of Oxford sweeps aside in its true glory. Such reaction would lend considerable support to our attempts to establish our criticisms as theoretically serious in the face of the withering confidence which Mr Schmidt has so eloquently voiced.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL BARTLETT
(for the English Reform Group),
Magdalen College, Oxford.

Sir,—One cannot take seriously Dr Eagleton's story of a first-year undergraduate in English wondering when she would "do" Brecht: she was surely pulling his leg; if not, she should never have been admitted to read English. But it does give an unintentional, point against his curious accusation that "rampant chauvinism . . . bulked large in the original establishment of English as a university discipline". For Brecht was German, and it was Germanic scholarship which in fact bulked largest originally, though one must acknowledge that the Oxford philologists who planned the first English syllabus in Oxford saw the relevance not only of German, Gothic and Icelandic literatures, but of Old French and Italian. So is Dr Eagleton so very far removed from the founders? Moreover, the loudest critic of the original planners, Churton Collins, while denouncing the linguistic bias, argued that no honours student should be admitted "whose education had not taught him to approach Shakespeare through Aristotle". There is critical theory for you!

Certainly, students should learn how to read critically; but it is only then that they can usefully tackle the theory of criticism. To come to critical theory, whether that of Aristotle or one of Dr Eagleton's Marxisms, before then is disastrous.

Yours etc.,
JOHN GILLARD WATSON,
32 Beech Croft Road, Oxford.

Sir,—People interested in your feature "Oxford's great English literature debate" may care to note that with colleagues here and at other institutions I have been planning a workshop on the development of university English teaching. We shall convene it—the DUET Workshop—in Norwich on September 18-20. Advance notices are going out now, with the help of the Midlands Universities regional working party on teaching; brochures will go out to departments next term. We hope to provide, in the form of the workshop itself as well as its contents, varied opportunities to examine the practice of the subject and its implications. I shall be glad to respond to inquiries.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BROADBENT,
Professor of English literature,
University of East Anglia.

The Clegg Commission

Sir,—Adversity makes for a strange bedfellow. It is therefore an unexpected pleasure fully to endorse Peter Dawson's comments on the nonsense which appears to be emanating from the Clegg Commission on the subject of salaries for teachers in polytechnics and colleges. Like him, we also have evidence that certain members of the commission were making totally indefensible comparisons between the duties of teaching staffs and the work carried out elsewhere. The worst aspect of such comparisons was that the concepts of skill and professional experience had been totally disregarded. Whether the reason for this was sublime ignorance or malicious intent we are not in a position to judge, but it is clear that the commission (and, apparently, its advisers) are totally incompetent to adjudicate on this complex issue.

Apart from briefly commenting that Lecturers Grade I appeared to be the subject of some unduly harsh judgments the Association of Polytechnic Teachers would not wish to make any statement on the merits of the cases for those in the colleges. However, for its own members in the polytechnics, a rough comparison can be made with the salaries of university teachers as at January 1980:

Universities: lecturer £4,766 to £9,891; senior lecturer £9,568 to £11,853; professor £12,089 (minimum), £14,148 (average).

Polytechnics: senior lecturer £4,806 to £8,871; principal lecturer £8,256 to £10,362; head of department £10,128 to £12,075.

It is *not* being suggested that teachers in universities and polytechnics should earn identical salaries. It is being demonstrated that even the briefest comparison of like with like reveals the appalling hush that the commission is making of its task. Perhaps, as many in the reaching profession claim, such a task is beyond it; if so, surely a halt should be called to the present proceedings so that fresh negotiations can be started for the 1980 pay claim with both sides knowing exactly where they stand.

Yours faithfully,
Dr. J. A. SIMMONS,
Chairman, APT Salaries Panel.

Proposals for NELP

Sir,—As chief external examiner of the degree by independent study at North East London Polytechnic, I have been dismayed by proposals to reorganize the polytechnic. The proposals are intended to close courses in humanities and social sciences. They do mention an extension of independent study and the intention to preserve courses that are "viable". There is a contradiction between these aims to which I would like to call attention. Certainly the degree by independent study is unique; it is the only degree of its kind in the country.

Students are able, after completing a Dip HE or two years of a polytechnic degree, and a strenuous preparation course, to design for themselves a study programme for their final year. Student programmes—and each degree is different—are taught by specialist tutors in each faculty.

The degree is therefore a microcosm of the polytechnic. There are students in engineering designing windmills; students in business studies and ARMC studying group processes; students in environmental studies researching housing and tenancy; in science the relationship of physiology to yoga; in art and design doing weaving; in applied social studies studying alcoholism; in humanities studying linguistics or writing novels.

Traditionally, 30 per cent of those students plan programmes in humanities and applied social studies—two areas threatened with closure. Other students have been taught by applied economics and studies disabled student services—which are also to close. Fewer students choose engineering or science, the areas to remain untouched.

The opportunity to take the degree by independent study has been nearly always given as "one reason why students choose to do the Dip HE. This year 80 per cent of the Dip HE Second Year students registered for the degree procourse.

The polytechnic has as a main objective service to the local area. The school for independent study has succeeded in recruiting locally, particularly among mature students. Plans to run the degree part-time will enable further local recruitment. Both the Dip. HE and the degree develop student programmes concerned with local issues.

By cutting courses and faculties in humanities, social sciences and economics and staff in central services, the range of options available to the degree students, and hence the degree itself, will be diminished. It will mean, inevitably, that the school for independent study will be much less attractive to potential students if their degree outlets are so restricted.

Yours faithfully,
PROFESSOR G. T. FOWLER,
36 Buckingham Gate, London,
SE1E 6PB.

Education in Albania

Sir,—The tenor of Sue Masterman's article on education in Albania (*THES*, March 21) is hardly worthy of anything that could be called serious or objective journalism. Having alluded to the advances and achievements of that country in school provision, she proceeds to attempt to cast doubt on the figures she reports by the old trick of quoting selected Albanian writings about other European and American countries with which we could disagree but against which she offers no counter-truths. Presumably we are supposed to generalise from this to anything the Albanians may report about themselves and therefore dismiss it as being of doubtful truth.

She follows this up with two final paragraphs which, I imagine, we are to take as wit, but killing sarcasm. Did the Albanians ever refer to the "Wicked West" (they are a European country themselves) or the "Evil East"? I doubt that the alliteration would work as well in their language. Have they ever suggested that they have found the key to "educational paradise"? Even a brief acquaintance with the writings and conference reports from that country would indicate that they are very aware of the need for continual improvement and development of modern teaching methods. In this latter case they are not afraid to learn from other countries, including our own.

The final statement of Ms Masterman's piece implies that because we cannot all go tramping through Albanian schools, they must have something to hide and that the "light of daily practice" must be "cruel". *Cruel ???*

I have had the experience of visiting Albania and of spending time in their schools quite freely. There is little point in my telling Ms Masterman that the picture the Albanians portray is fairly accurate and that the hints she makes at a dire and foul pedagogical reality in Albania are totally misplaced. The prejudice she displays against that country will surely be generalised to anyone who makes positive statements about it.

Please treat your readers and your subjects with a little respect and seriousness. Petty sniping is hardly worthy of *THES*.

Yours sincerely,
JANET GALE,
Lecturer in Educational Technology,
The Open University.

Overseas students' fees

Sir,—It is open to the universities to concert a simple and beneficial strategy for restoring parity between the fees charged to EEC and to overseas students. The UGC has determined the minimum economic prices that should be charged for various categories of university education, and it is fair that these prices should now be charged at home as well as to overseas students.

Since fees are now paid without means test for all holders of local awards, hardship would be caused only in exceptional cases, and a special fund could be set up to deal with these. No doubt the DES would insist on corresponding reductions in the recurrent grants to universities, to compensate for the ending of grants that LEAs will need from central sources. But the DES can hardly object to the principle of the change, which is thoroughly in accordance with the present government's general policy: a reduction in the instrumentalities of centralised control and a more realistic charging of costs to actual consumers.

During the past generation the universities have brought themselves into their present dependence on Government grants by systematically undercharging their students. We could not have a better opportunity than now to restore the economic balance and at the same time eliminate discriminations that are inherently unjustifiable. At the time it was thought that the independence of universities could be preserved just by the "buffering" of Government money through the UGC. But we know now that this was a mistake, and a system of "laundering" most of the resources money through LEAs will help strengthen the power of each university to determine its own policies.

Yours faithfully,
L. JONATHAN COHEN,
Queen's College,
Oxford.

Northern College

Sir,—Mr Iveson (Northern College and the Chamber of Commerce, *THES*, March 28) is building much on a single sentence in the Russell Report: "Where, as is sometimes done already, the two sides of industry can join to study a subject together, greater mutual understanding can result." Experience in this country and elsewhere is that joint sessions of trade union representatives and managers, and of groups of great benefit to both in the later stages of courses in industrial relations, but that important courses rarely succeed. The Russell committee certainly did not envisage that trade union education would be confined to FE colleges, as opposed to the WEA, university extra-mural departments, and long term residential colleges. As regard this partnership between trade unions and the adult education movement as a whole, ensuring that genuine, educational values and an objective approach are fostered."

The committee recommended the "consideration should be given to the establishment of one further college in the Northern half of England" and it was no doubt on this and to grade union education that the attack on the new college's provision of gateway and liberal studies courses is in total opposition to the developing ideals of continuing education. Mr Iveson should get his facts straight.

Yours faithfully,
H. D. HUGHES (Member, Northern Committee),
Mill Street, Islip,
Oxford.

Letters for publication should reach us on Tuesday morning at the latest. They should be as short as possible, and the editor reserves the right to cut or amend them as necessary.

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The distorted priorities of the White Paper

The harsh sentence imposed on higher education (and all publicly-funded services) last May but suspended for a while by the slow operation of the public expenditure machine is now to be carried out. That is the message of the White Paper on the Government's spending plans for the next four years, published last Wednesday, and of next year's university grant announced by Mr Carlisle the following day.

Two preliminary points need to be made about the financial outlook for higher education. First, the present year, 1979-80, has been spent cutting about cuts; next year, 1980-81, universities, polytechnics and colleges will actually have to live with them. In their first year in government the Conservatives did remarkably little to change the overall shape of Labour's spending plans. The universities, in particular, escaped almost unscathed (the £62.4m addition to this year's grant is generous in the circumstances), and even in the maintained sector the financial year now coming to an end can hardly be described as a tough one. The Chancellor's first budget merely tried to check the upward growth of public expenditure; his second is a determined attempt to reverse this trend.

Second, just as higher education escaped lightly from round one, so the system is likely to suffer particularly severe punishment in *round two—and three and four*? A *superficial* reading of the White Paper figures may suggest otherwise. After all, recurrent expenditure on higher and further education will only fall by five per cent up to 1983-84 (in resource terms) compared to a cut of nine per cent in expenditure on all education. But this simple comparison fails to take into account the fact that the school-age population is in rapid decline while the age cohorts from which higher education draws most of its students will go on rising until the end of the period covered by this White Paper.

It also fails to distinguish between non-advanced further education (where the Government expects a 10 per cent increase in enrolments by 1984), and advanced further education and the universities. Although no breakdown between the two is given, it is a reasonable assumption that most of the disparity between decline-rates is higher and further education and that for all education can be explained by the growth of non-advanced further education.

The welfare state is a hostage for the success of economic policy

Of course, many people now argue that it is wrong to cut the present-day public expenditure White Papers as they appear in those published in the late 1960s and early 1970s when inflation was low and there was a further commitment, by both parties, to providing high-quality public services. This is only half true. These White Papers still provide the basic framework of the Government's plans. The argument is only about the more limited sense that these figures can no longer be much more than indications of relative priorities. Precise totals in resource terms can no longer be guaranteed to be translated mechanically into the same totals in cash terms.

Yet this is the opposite of comfort to the present Government. It makes no secret of its desire to reduce public spending as a share of the GNP by 1 per cent per year up to 1984. Although its present assumptions about the growth of the economy are fairly pessimistic, the state of affairs in contemporary Britain inspires no strong belief that they cannot get worse. If this happens, further restrictions on public expenditure will have to follow. The welfare state is more than ever a hostage for the success of the Government's macro-economic policies. So even in volume terms higher education's meagre share is not secure.

Certainly it is far from secure in terms of cash—which actually pays wages and bills. The present Government is also determined to use the discipline of cash limits as both an overall brake on the growth of public expenditure and an unofficial incomes policy in the public sector. No one should be surprised at this. It is the purpose of cash limits. They were used in the same way by the previous Labour Government, although perhaps with a greater sense of guilt. No Government concerned about a high level of inflation can be expected to condone its continuation by allowing full compensation for wage and price rises. So next year's university grant of £987m incorporates not only a "real" cut of 2 per cent but probably a further "cash-limits" cut. How great this second cut is likely to be cannot be calculated but only to provide for 14 per cent inflation at a time when the actual rate is nudging 20 per cent hardly looks generous.

The second area of concern about the adequacy of the grant arises from the difference of opinion between the Government and the universities about student numbers. The grant is based on the assumption that next year's intake will be about 75,000 students, the same as this year. But UCCA applications are still rising in universities will have to choose between turning away well-qualified students (so blatantly breaching the Robbins principle), or accepting more than the Government is willing to pay for (so suffering a further decline in the unit of resources on top of the decline that has already taken place in the 1970s). Neither is a happy prospect.

In any case the choice is made more difficult by the continuing uncertainty over overseas students. No financial provision has yet been made for the "going" for overseas students. It is assumed that they will be charged, and will pay, full-cost fees. The only concession that the Government has been prepared to make is to include in the £987m an earmarked sum of £5m to help bail out universities with especially important postgraduate courses which might otherwise be placed in jeopardy by any premature decline in the number of overseas students. The size of this sum gives a good indication of the small scale of any rescue operation that the Government is prepared to mount. Mr Carlisle also specifically stated that this sum would be available "while universities adjust to the new policy of full-cost fees for overseas students so implying it is only a temporary concession. Six months of hard lobbying have produced very little.

Yet it still looks as if the universities will be harmed less than they polytechnics and colleges. The level of the UGC grant for 1980-81, although barely adequate, could have been worse. This, taken with the priority to be given to non-advanced further education, makes the outlook for advanced further education particularly bleak. It looks like being squeezed between a (just) adequately-funded university system and an expanding non-advanced sector. Indeed, the White Paper specifically states that the reduction in support for institutions and student support in higher education will be felt particularly in the non-university sector.

It is perhaps inevitable, but it is still very sad, that in a time of steady-state, or more likely decline, in higher education the universities, as market leaders, will suffer less than their more recently established competitors in the maintained sector. So the picture that is emerging of the likely shape of higher education in the 1980s has three depressing ingredients, a continuing high level of uncertainty, chronic under-funding, and the reinforcement of the more conservative parts of the system at the expense of the rest.

This distortion of the pattern of higher education produced by austerity (aided by uncertainty) is even more damaging than the direct effect of cuts. The latter can be reversed far more easily than the former. Yet the Government appears barely to be aware that such distortions are already taking place (and, to be fair, have been at work since at least the middle 1970s). The greatest criticism that can be made of the Government's record in higher education is not that they have made substantial cuts in the money they have made available (they can be criticized for that but they can reply legitimately that that is what they were elected to do), but that they have refused to face up to the policy implications of these cuts. To take just one example, the binary policy established in the 1960s with all-party support depended for its success on some transfer of planned resources from the university to the maintained sector. The limited transfer that did take place, between 1969 and 1974, is slowly but inexorably being reversed by the adjustments now being made by the Government and the system to public spending cuts. What does this leave the binary policy? Several views are possible on this—but the Government sadly appears to have none at all.

It really is time the Government got itself a higher education policy

This process of distortion has been carried a stage further by the latest White Paper. The universities have hung on—but only just. They have been given marginally less money to pay for marginally more students. But even this judgment, which is the most optimistic possible, leaves out crucial factors, the most important of which is clearly overseas students but which also include the increasing cost of an aging academic staff and the erosion of the dual-support system for university research.

The polytechnics and especially the colleges and institutes of higher education (not to mention adult education which has suffered the cuts) face a grimmer future. They will be given significantly less money to pay, for the same, or more, students. A wet blanket of uncertainty will cover both sectors.

It really is time the Government got itself a higher education policy. Tinkering around with "broad steers" and crypto-Oakes committees to help with "capping the pool" is just not good enough. It has hardly any impact on the much more significant shifts in priority produced by the ebbing tide of public expenditure. For too long social policy has been drifting, its origins stopped and its rudder broken, on these fiscal currents. This abdication of purpose was already clear under Labour. Under the Conservatives it seems bound to become the strongest and most depressing trend in higher education policy.

Eight points I wanted to raise



Richard Hoggart

For the half-year during which I've been writing this monthly column (this is the last) I've kept noting possible subjects in case, when the time came actually to write each piece, I was barren of ideas. Some of what seemed at one time possible themes look odd now; they range from those which need far more than 1,200 or so words to some which could hardly be spun out to that. A strange length, this; there is not much room for manoeuvre. It is too long for anecdote, telling though anecdote can be, and too short for more than an insufficiently qualified flagging of any subject with weight. So it risks falling into the ditches on either side of the road: into casual whimsy or dogmatic assertion. I don't regret trying my hand at the form but am not at ease in it and wouldn't swop jobs with even the most richly paid regular columnist. I might as well, though, go out if not with a bang at least with a set of provocative little firecrackers. Here are the eight subjects, of all those I've listed as possible over the months, which I wish I *had* had a shot at.

(1) The communications debate and the excessive deference which is still being paid to the New Puritans within it. There are certainly big problems *apropos* mass communications, but the leave the binary policy? Several views are possible on this—but the Government sadly appears to have none at all.

(2) Continuing education (as we now increasingly call it). There is a lot to be said here, since the field is in a state of unusual stir. I'd want to start with the tendency of some people to "retreat into the technical", to exhibit what Arnold called our besetting faith in machinery. I'd deliberately set against each other the decline in intellectual demands made on adult students (as has been shown, above all, by the reduction in the number of three-year tutorial classes) and the enormous enthusiasm of some people for all those electronic boxes of tricks which they seem implicitly to see as substitutes for face-to-face sitting down, or face-to-book sitting down, and thinking.

(3) The narrowness of the English literary reviewers' world and the tyranny of prior assumptions about authors. I have in mind what I learnt from the reception of my own last book, on Unesco. It wasn't ill-received; indeed, it was kindly treated. But, though friendly, many reviewers said one or both of these things: "Dimly subject, that; who's interested in the troubles of *international* intellectual life?" and "Fancy him writing about such an—by definition—abstract and generalized subject! It isn't). He should get back to studies of English working-class culture or of modern literature."

(4) The long-standing English addiction to amateur artistic activities, and its meanings. W. E. Williams, then secretary-general of the Arts Council, once told me that he would devote his retirement to compiling the Doomsday Book of English Amateur Artistic Activities, since so many tens of thousands of people here throw pots, act, sing in operetta, join choirs, attend poetry-writing classes, play music in groups and take part in all the rest of those activities which keep schools and colleges and church halls thumping at night. He was right. Throw a half-brick in the centre of Leeds even on any day and you'd hit either a fish-and-chip shop or an amateur actress. When we were house-hunting in Birmingham sixteen or seventeen years ago we decided that virtually everybody in Moseley and Edgbaston did something artistic out of the home at night. When they opened their built-in wardrobes top hats, opera cloaks, Regency dresses, Elizabethan pantaloons tumbled out. Some form of drama is easily the most popular activity. It seems to begin with the very respectable working-classes and runs up the social scale to about the mid-middles, I'd guess. But what does it mean? Does it lead on to a greater appreciation of drama generally? I doubt it. To the writing of plays? Very rarely.

(5) Continuing education (as we now increasingly call it). There is a lot to be said here, since the field is in a state of unusual stir. I'd want to start with the tendency of some people to "retreat into the technical", to exhibit what Arnold called our besetting faith in machinery. I'd deliberately set against each other the decline in intellectual demands made on adult students (as has been shown, above all, by the reduction in the number of three-year tutorial classes) and the enormous enthusiasm of some people for all those electronic boxes of tricks which they seem implicitly to see as substitutes for face-to-face sitting down, or face-to-book sitting down, and thinking.

(6) It would have been apt, too, but the space is far too limited, to say something about the great binary divide. Most of us are busy ignoring it and so missing considerable opportunities.

(7) The book, which more than any other I've read in the last 12 months excited me, is an educational textbook. Perhaps I should have done a review-article in the disguise of the regular column. It's Jean F. Shaughnessy's *Errors and Expectations—A Guide for the Teacher of Basic English*. (OUP, NY, 1977.) It was written as an aid to marking essays and other papers produced by students who lack fundamental writing skills that they have to have special attention. Professor Shaughnessy worked in New York; I use the past tense because she died last year. The subject sounds dull, but the book is in fact absorbing. She doesn't "correct" the essays in the usual sense; she reads deeply into them and so into what their authors are struggling to say. In her book she discusses what an apparently "illiterate" paper means to its writer and tells you about him or her, she displays the confidence, insight, clarity and grace of a most skilled and humane surgeon explaining step by step the difficult operation he is actually engaged on. The American press rightly greeted it with enthusiasm.

"She reveals the logic of error . . . directive but not preachy . . . eloquent, lucid and compassionate," said *The Nation*; and Ben DeMott hailed it as the sort of book, and they occur rarely, which changes our perspectives in this field for good and for the good.

It is still hardly known here, incidentally. I would have liked to hear Mina Shaughnessy analyse this fragment of space-shuttle language heard on Radio Four the other day. A man was being asked whether some new electronic gadget was cheap enough to allow many people to buy it. He replied: "It would fit very well into the realm of conceivability for the average person."

(8) The most difficult subject which I toyed with, before deciding it was far too big to handle in such a space, was Human Rights and the feeling I've had since leaving Paris five years ago that the British really don't want to know how fragile those rights are over virtually all the world. So much so that, if their own rights were seriously eroded, I'm not sure they'd have the insight to see or the energy to act. I hope I'm wrong; I may well be overreacting; but the parochialism and evasiveness of so many of our preoccupations is not something to be easily accepted after a spell in more delicately and dangerously charged atmospheres.